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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 22

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2020

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3 airlines cancel flights

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Three airlines that carry passengers from mainland China to the CNMI have suspended or cancelled their flights in February due to the coronavirus outbreak, according to the Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday.

» **Trump orders limits on entry of travelers from China**

CPA also announced in a press release President Trump's proclamation that suspends or limits the entry to the United States of persons who pose a risk of transmitting the 2019 novel coronavirus, which originated from Wuhan, China.

CPA said that Sichuan Air-
See **FLIGHTS** on **Page 4**

Philippines reports first virus death outside China

BEIJING (AP)—The Philippines on Sunday reported the first death of a new virus outside of China, where authorities delayed the opening of schools in the worst-hit province and tightened quarantine measures in another that allow only one family member to venture out to buy supplies.

See **DEATH** on **Page 4**

CNMI remains coronavirus-free

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Contrary to rumors that the novel coronavirus has already reached the CNMI, the Com-
See **CNMI** on **Page 4**

\$56M available to clean up Marianas

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth officials will be meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency

this week to discuss the \$56 million allotment intended to help clean up the solid waste management problem on the island.

The amount was ear-

marked by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) for the CNMI though Public Law 116-20, or the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019.

Sablan said the \$56 million is not just for disposal of typhoon waste, but for other solid waste management activities, particularly to address the longstanding need for modern, environmentally-sound waste facilities on Tinian and Rota, as well as

for the Marpi landfill.

Problems hounding the Marpi landfill recently came up, following an urgent meeting called by some members of the House of Representatives last week. Lawmakers met with officials from the

See **\$56M** on **Page 4**

File photo shows the overflowing amount of garbage at the Marpi landfill.
IVA MAURIN



- WHAT YOU CAN DO**
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
 - When you cough, cover your mouth with a tissue, throw the tissue away, and then wash your hands;
 - Cover your mouth with the sleeve of your clothing if you do not have any tissue;
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces;
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
 - Stay at home if you are sick. Do not go to school or work;
 - As a reminder, this is a rapidly evolving situation, and guidance may change.

Stay up to date with reputable sources

The community is reminded to only share official notices and visit the following links for the most up-to-date information:

- **CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>
- **White House Proclamation:** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-2019-novel-coronavirus/>

Source: Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services

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LOCAL

Ben Babauta is recognized Saturday night as Mount Carmel School's 2020 Alumni of the Year.

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BUSINESS

Fork & Spoon: House of Sizzling officially opens its doors at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

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ASIA

China's death toll from a new virus rose to 259 and the number of confirmed cases is now at 11,791.

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Local

ACS takes first Academic Challenge Bowl win

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After nearly four hours, Agape Christian School took home its first win in this year's Middle School Academic Challenge Bowl last Saturday at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria.

The academic challenge

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bowl, hosted by the SSSH National Honor Society, saw ACS' overall score of 765 topping Green Meadow School, which came in second with 755 points. Third place winner was Mount Carmel School, which finished with a score of 735. The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School finished fourth overall with a 690 score while Hopwood Middle School completed the top five with 610 points.

According to ACS principal Jimeian Pang, this is the first time ACS took home first place in the bowl. And although she may not have



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Agape Christian School takes its first Middle School Academic Challenge Bowl win last Saturday at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria.

expected the ACS victory, she and her students were nonetheless happy.

"We have been competing for the last few years. My students have been working really hard...and we really didn't expect to get first but the students tried their very best to read as much as possible. I

just gave them as many stuff to read. We didn't even know how many questions there would be," Pang said.

Pang said she prepared her students for just two weeks because they were involved in other extracurricular activities so they really weren't expecting much.

"When they made it to the

top three, it was unexpected that's why we were very happy and excited. My greatest joy was to see them hug one another. ...We really didn't expect this and we just want to thank God," she said.

Zhu Li, the captain of the team, said he was surprised but joyful at the same time.

According to Li, their strategy to winning this year was to let each team member focus on one subject and learn that subject as much as they could.

The last winner of the Middle School Academic Challenge bowl was Marianas Baptist Academy, taking first in 2018.

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Guam follows US govt actions

Following the announcement last Saturday by the White House declaring a public health emergency over the novel coronavirus outbreak, the government of Guam has taken steps to follow the procedures outlined by federal public health authorities.



Leon Guerrero

On Friday, the White House suspended entry to the United States of any non-

U.S. citizens who, in the 14 days prior to their arrival were physically present within the People's Republic of China. U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and family mem-

» **Takes steps to quarantine US citizens arriving from China and deny entry to foreign nationals**

bers to U.S. citizens will be allowed entry, but will require a 14-day quarantine. The federal government has not yet issued guidance on how or where the quarantine will take place. GovGuam is preparing for the possible implementation of quarantine plans should there be local requirements to implement the policy.

"We are in constant communication with federal public health officials and our White House counterparts. We are prepared to execute all official advisories once they are issued, and we will advise the public accordingly," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "We have planned for these circumstances and we are ready to implement our plan and keep Guam safe."

Although no cases of the 2019 novel coronavirus—officially called the 2019-nCoV—have been reported in Guam or the Northern Marianas to date, the Department of Public Health and Social Services, along with emergency management stakeholders, is actively preparing for its potential arrival. DPHSS continues to follow guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as it prepares its response, updating any plans or procedures as

CDC guidelines change.

"While GovGuam works with our federal partners to prevent and prepare for the introduction of coronavirus,

everyone on Guam can take simple actions now to stop the spread of respiratory illnesses like the flu and coronavirus by practicing good hygiene and

staying home if you're ill," shared Guam DPHSS Director Linda DeNorcey.

Healthcare providers should immediately notify both infec-

tion control personnel at their facility and the in the event of a patient under investigation. Current PUI criteria can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>. Providers can reach DPHSS to report a PUI at (671) 888-WARN. (PR)

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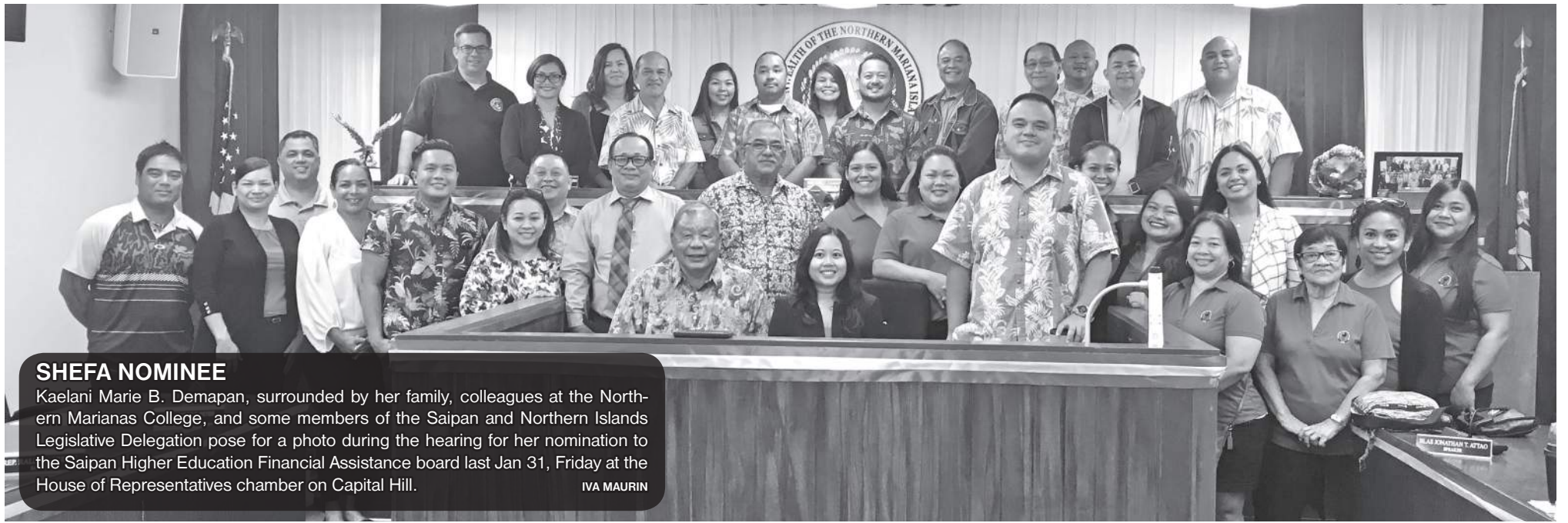
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SHEFA NOMINEE

Kaelani Marie B. Demapan, surrounded by her family, colleagues at the Northern Marianas College, and some members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation pose for a photo during the hearing for her nomination to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board last Jan. 31, Friday at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill.

IVA MAURIN

DEATH

From Page 1

The Philippine Department of Health said a 44-year-old Chinese man from Wuhan was admitted on Jan. 25 after experiencing fever, cough, and sore throat. He developed severe pneumonia, and in his last few days, “the patient was stable and showed signs of improvement, however, the condition of the patient deteriorated within his last 24 hours resulting in his demise.”

The man’s 38-year-old female companion, also from Wuhan, first tested positive for the virus and remains in hospital isolation in Manila.

President Rodrigo Duterte approved a temporary ban on all travel-

ers, except Filipinos, from China and its autonomous regions. The U.S., Japan, Singapore and Australia have imposed similar restrictions despite criticism from China and an assessment from the World Health Organization that they were unnecessarily hurting trade and travel.

Meanwhile, six officials in the city of Huanggang, neighboring the epicenter of Wuhan in Hubei province, have been fired over “poor performance” in handling the outbreak, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

It cited the mayor as saying the city’s “capabilities to treat the patients remained inadequate and there is a severe shortage in medical supplies such as protective suits and medical masks.”

Figures from the National Health

Commission showed an increase of 45 in the death toll and 2,590 in the number of cases for a total of 14,380, well above the number of those infected in the 2002-03 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, which broke out in southern China before spreading worldwide.

After Huanggang, the trading center of Wenzhou in coastal Zhejiang province also confined people to homes, allowing only one family member to venture out every other day to buy necessary supplies.

With the outbreak showing little sign of abating, authorities in Hubei and elsewhere have extended the Lunar New Year holiday, due to end this week, well into February. The annual travel crunch of millions of people returning from their hometowns to the

cities is thought to pose a major threat of secondary infection at a time when authorities are encouraging people to avoid public gatherings.

All Hubei schools will postpone the opening of the new semester until further notice and students from else-

where who visited over the holiday will also be excused from classes.

Far away on China’s southeast coast, the manufacturing hub of Wenzhou put off the opening of government offices until Feb. 9, private businesses until Feb. 17 and schools until March 1.

FLIGHTS

From Page 1

lines, China Eastern Airlines, and Beijing Capital Airlines have suspended flights in February.

CPA said Sichuan Airlines suspended all flights into the CNMI from last Saturday until further notice. Last Thursday and Friday, Sichuan Airlines provided “ferry-in” and “live-out” service. This means that the airline arrived in the CNMI with no passengers and left with travelers.

China Eastern also cancelled all flights from last Saturday until further notice.

Beijing Capital Airlines cancelled all flights beginning last Friday until the end of February.

CPA said Beijing Capital Airlines also cited as the reason for its suspension the monitoring and controlling of the virus.

CPA said it will continue to provide information to the public regarding any additional flight cancellations or suspensions.

Trump’s proclamation states that “the entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of all aliens who were physically present within the People’s Republic of China, excluding the Special Autonomous Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States is hereby suspended and limited, subject to section 2 of this proclamation.”

CPA said Section 2 of the proclamation provides the scope of suspension and limitation on entry.

Section 3 of the proclamation states that the State secretary and Homeland Security secretary will implement the proclamation as it applies to visas and the entry of aliens, respectively.

In the CNMI, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol will be responsible for the implementation.

CPA said Trump’s proclamation is effective at 5pm Eastern standard time on Feb. 2, which is today, Feb. 3, at 8am Chamorro Standard Time.

CPA said the president’s proclamation shall remain in effect until he terminates it.

CPA said it is currently collaborating with local and federal partners and is waiting for further information in regard to the implementation of the proclamation.

Last week, CPA board chair Kimberly King-Hinds said the suspension of flights from China due to the coronavirus outbreak will have a serious financial impact on CPA.

King-Hinds disclosed that their comptroller’s preliminary review of the impacts peg an annual loss of \$2.2 million in revenues should the suspension of flights continue toward end of fiscal year.

“That’s just CPA,” King-Hinds pointed out.

The chair said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is working with the Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Finance, and the Office of the Management and Budget to get the necessary data to determine what the impact will be on the CNMI overall.

Travelers from mainland China arrive in the CNMI through carriers such as Hong Kong Express, China Eastern Airlines, Sichuan Airlines, and Beijing Capital Airlines.

Carriers such as Jeju Airlines, T’Way Airlines, and Asiana Airlines also bring travelers to the CNMI transiting through Seoul and Incheon, Republic of Korea. Approximately 700 mainland Chinese passengers per day arrive in the CNMI from these carriers.

As to how long the outbreak will last, that is currently unknown as scientists are still studying the virus. In comparison, the first cases of what would later be known as SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, were first seen in the Guangdong province of southeastern China in November 2002. That lasted until July 5, 2003, when the World Health Organization announced that all person-to-person transmission of SARS has stopped. In all, 8,096 people in 26 countries contracted the SARS illness, leading to 774 deaths.

CNMI

From Page 1

monwealth Health Care Corp. assures that there hasn’t been any cases or suspected cases in the CNMI.

According to CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis, CHCC has had no suspected or confirmed novel coronavirus cases as of Friday morning.

As of Thursday, the World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, or PHEIC, relating to an outbreak of the novel coronavirus, which is officially called 2019-nCoV. Previous WHO emergencies covered the Ebola, Zika, and H1N1 viruses.

By declaring a PHEIC, the WHO can mobilize resources and mount a coordinated international response. In line with the need for global soli-

darity, the WHO Emergency Committee felt that a global coordinated effort is needed to enhance preparedness in other regions of the world that may need additional support.

The committee also said in its meeting that they believe it is still possible to interrupt the spread of the virus if countries are vigilant and put in place strong preparedness measures.

CHCC assures that it continuously monitors all ports of entry in the CNMI and is working with community partners and organizations to ensure that, should a coronavirus case appears in the CNMI, “we are prepared to contain it and mitigate risk to the community as much as possible,” the hospital corporation said in a statement.

“CHCC would also like to remind the community to take precautionary measures against becoming ill,

not just with the novel coronavirus, but with other diseases with similar symptoms such as the common cold and the flu,” the statement added.

It is believed that, similar to other coronaviruses, 2019-nCoV spreads through tiny droplets that a person coughs or sneezes onto surfaces around them. The danger of transmission comes from a non-sick person getting those droplets into their eyes or mouth.

How the virus spreads from person to person can vary. From the information that the CHCC has acquired, the transmission of the virus happens if a sick person coughs or sneezes into their hand, then touches something like a bathroom door handle or shakes a non-sick person’s hand. If that non-sick person touches the germs, then touches their eyes or mouth, the virus can get into their system.

site and lack of a sanitary waste facility on Tinian has proven a barrier to proposed economic development, and is, as well, a health and safety hazard for residents. ...A lack of funding has made it impossible to fix this problem in the past. Now, sufficient money is available,” Sablan stated in his letter.

He said the open dump on Tinian is a barrier to economic development, and that the people of Rota should have a dumpsite that protects the beauty of their island.

On Rota, the lack of a modern, environmentally sound landfill is a “blemish on our good stewardship, given the otherwise pristine condition of much of this beautiful island

that is home to numerous rare and endangered species of plant and animal life,” he said.

Sablan also noted that there should be enough funding to care for the Marpi landfill.

“This facility, which was an example of best practice for the whole island Pacific region when first opened, is certainly stressed by the volume of waste created by multiple typhoons in recent years and development activities,” he added.

Aside from the \$56 million, another \$10.4 million has been set aside in the Disaster Relief Act for drinking water facilities and waste water treatment plants impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu.

\$56M

From Page 1

Department of Public Works to discuss the inadequacies in the operation of the Marpi landfill, including improper compaction, water pump problems, lack of cell barricade, and other mismanagements of the site.

In a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and legislative leaders, Sablan assured that the language of the Relief Act gives the Commonwealth flexibility and time to accomplish its solid waste management goals—that the money will be kept “available until expended.”

“We all know that the open dump

Babauta is MCS' Alumni of the Year



Ben Babauta, fourth from the left, is awarded Alumni of the Year during Mount Carmel School's Night with the Knights event last Saturday at Pacific Islands Club, Saipan.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ben Babauta, who is a member of Mount Carmel School's Class of 1985, was recognized last Saturday night as the school's 2020 Alumni of the Year during the MCS Alumni Association's Night with the Knights at Pacific Islands Club.

Babauta, who was in complete shock upon being named the night's awardee, said that he really did not expect it.

"It's an honor. The award is quite exciting and I'm humbled. I'm definitely thankful to the Lord, my family for all the support, and to everyone else from MCS who supports me," he said.

Babauta currently serves as MCS board chair and it was in that capacity that, he oversaw the merger of MCS and the Sister Remedios Early Child-

hood Development Center, implemented MCS' first strategic master plan, and ensured competitive salaries for MCS teachers.

Babauta is currently the Duty Free Saipan T Galleria assistant general manager for store operations.

Outside DFS, Babauta owns Saipan's lone bingo operation, and also serves in various non-profits, including the Northern Marianas College Foundation, the Saipan Rotary Club, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said Babauta is deserving of the prestigious award because he has done much for the community as well as his alma mater.

"He's a very humble man. He's very deserving of this award and he's very successful in his own right but he gives so much to the community and so much to his

alma mater and it only makes sense to recognize him for all he has given to us, so this is a small token of recognition for a great man," said Deleon Guerrero.

According to MCS spokesperson Victoria Deleon Guerrero, the MCS Alumni Association has been hosting the "Night with the Knights" for the past four years to bring all MCS alumni together for a night and to honor one outstanding alumni who has done great things for the community. MCS calls its alumni "knights."

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CUC employee allegedly strangles wife

An employee of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was arrested Thursday afternoon for allegedly strangling his pregnant wife for coming home late at night at their home in Achugao.

The wife told police that she prayed that she won't die as Christopher Santos Bigley choked her, with his thumbs on her throat. He also allegedly had her in a headlock.

Bigley, 38, was taken Friday for bail hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on charges of strangulation, assault and

battery, assault, and disturbing the peace. Govendo imposed a \$5,000 cash bail and \$20,000 in unsecured bond on Bigley, plus some conditions. Preliminary hearing will be this Friday at 10am. Chief public defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for the defendant. Assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery appeared for the government.

According to police detective Lupe Ann C. Lizama in her report, the victim walked in to Department of Public Safety's front desk last Thursday noon to file a domestic violence

complaint against Bigley.

Lizama said the wife alleges that the beating, which was done in front of their infant child, happened when she came home last Wednesday past 11pm. The victim said that Bigley woke up and questioned her whereabouts and why she was late. She told Bigley she was too tired and that if she could not sleep in their house she would just leave.

As she was leaving the door with her belongings, Bigley allegedly pulled the bag from her shoulder and pulled

her, causing her to fall to the ground. Bigley then pulled her back into the house, choked her, and slammed her to the wall. He allegedly threatened to kill her. The wife said Bigley was so strong that, when he choked her, she could not breathe so she just prayed he would not kill her.

Later, she felt like throwing up, so she got up but he came from behind her and he put his arm around her neck in a headlock.

The wife said their baby was crying because he saw what happened. As she tried to

Police arrested Bigley at CUC in Lower Base Thursday afternoon.

Bigley told police he did not do anything to his wife and that they were fine before going to sleep the night before. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee Christopher Santos Bigley covers his face with documents as a Corrections officer escorts him after a bail hearing for domestic violence before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo Friday afternoon at the temporary Superior Court at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

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Proposal packets will be available on February 03, 2020, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or the Tinian Field Office in San Jose, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on February 18, 2020, at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, San Jose, Tinian.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ **Vinney Atalig-Hocog**
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NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ **Francisco C. Aguon**
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NMHC IFB 2020-006

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Properties in Tinian

Proposal packets will be available on February 03, 2020, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or the Tinian Field Office in San Jose, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid conference** will be held at **2:00 p.m.** on February 18, 2020, at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, San Jose, Tinian.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ **Vinney Atalig-Hocog**
Chairman
NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ **Francisco C. Aguon**
Acting-Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
ADDENDUM
RFP20-CHCC/RESPIRATORY CARE-001A

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 11, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

“FOUR (4) PURITAN BENNETT 980 VENTILATORS & FISHER & PAYKEL 850 HUMIDIFIER BASE & STARTER KIT”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP's** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ **ESTHER L. MUNA**
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ **CORAZON P. ADA**
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: Friday, February 28, 2020
TIME: 11:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2020-002

Purchase of Equipment for Fire Truck

Project package will be available on February 03, 2020, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on February 12, 2020, at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room located in Garapan. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ **Vinney Atalig-Hocog**
Chairman
NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ **Francisco C. Aguon**
Acting Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

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INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: March 10, 2020
TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2020-004

Rehabilitation and Expansion of the Tanapag Youth Center Building

Project package will be available on February 03, 2020, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of fifty dollars (\$50.00) is required for the project package. Payment must be by cash, credit card, cashier's check or certified check made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented in order to obtain the project package.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on February 20, 2020, at NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447; or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ **Vinney Atalig-Hocog**
Chairman
NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ **Francisco C. Aguon**
Acting Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-002

SUBMISSION DATE: February 27, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

“DPW Redemption Pilot Program Implementation, Saipan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **PRE-PROPOSAL** Conference is scheduled for **February 14, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room Solid Waste Transfer Station, Lower Base.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS February 21, 2020**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

IPI: Outbreak impacts flow of customers

The coronavirus outbreak in China is having an impact on the flow of customers at the Imperial Palace Saipan in Garapan, according to the company that owns it, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Responding to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comments about the coronavirus' impact, IPI said yesterday that, although there's an impact on

the number of their customers from China, they are also seeing an increase in Korean and Japanese customers.

IPI attributes this increase in their number of Japanese customers to the new direct flights from Japan through Skymark Airlines.

IPI said they are working with the Marianas Visitors Authority and other partners to promote Saipan and the Im-

perial Pacific Resort in Korea and Japan.

Most of IPI's casino customers are Chinese nationals.

Sichuan Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, and Beijing Capital Airlines have suspended flights to the CNMI this February due to the coronavirus outbreak. There is no indication yet on until when the outbreak will last. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Finance to replace outdated system

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance is pushing forward with a new software system.

Finance Secretary David M. Atalig said the enterprise resource planning software that the department is using is expiring within the year, and that their office is about to review the proposals submitted to have it replaced.

The version of JD Edwards being used will be what is called "end of life," meaning IBM will stop supporting the software version that Finance is using.

"We need to upgrade to the latest version of the JD Edwards software. That in itself is like implementing a new system completely. K...

We submitted a [request for proposals] for a new financial management information system, and so we've had an RFP out. It was closed early or first week of January," Atalig said.

A committee has been formed to review the possible replacements of Finance's JD Edwards system.

He said the department has been using the same outdated system for almost 25 years, that it seems like they are "still using Lotus 123 to do [their] financial management system."

"We have to get a new system because the system is outdated," Atalig said.

"The new systems out there are very robust and very efficient. Everything's online. Processes are online," he said. "You can get up-to-the-minute

data, or at least, the latest financial information as of, let's say, last night at midnight. Right now, in order for us to move forward, we need to get a new system."

In a separate interview, Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan) expressed support not just in updating Finance's JD system, but on the importance of having discussions on the needs of the department.

"It is also important to have the discussion on what the needs of the department... are. When it comes to revenue collection, when it comes to tracking and filing, and office management, what are their needs?" the legislator asked.

Babauta added that the financial system that is being used is also the one at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and the Public School System, among others.

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A special locals **Valentine's day** couples weekend promo if you book a room on 14th of February for two night, the second night is FREE! (See venue for details)

Saipan Vegas Resort is located next to Middle Rd. McDonald's Chalan Laulau. For further details, call 234-8718

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Mobil Ysengsong Service Station

Naval Hospital
NEXCOM Bldg #258
NEX Mini Mart/Gas Station
Tumon

SAIPAN LOCATIONS:
Chalan Piao
Gualo Rai
Paseo de Marianas, Garapan

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February is for parent leaders

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The whole month of February has been dedicated to recognizing the important role of parents in raising healthy families in their homes and communities. In addition, parents, community leaders, teachers, health care providers, and others can increase their knowledge of effective strategies to prevent childhood abuse and neglect.

This comes soon after Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios declared February as National Parent Leadership Month in a

proclamation signing last Jan. 31 at the Kagman Community Center.

In his speech, Palacios encouraged the community to participate in the activities that the Division of Youth Services has lined up throughout the month to help celebrate and support all parents, teachers, health-care providers, community leaders, and others.

"I thank our parents in the Commonwealth for continuing to nurture very valuable members of our community, which are our children," Palacios said.

He also recognized DYS of

the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, all the schools on the islands, and other contributors who "play a critical role in raising our children and strengthening our community."

Also present at the proclamation signing was first lady Diann Torres, who also thanked parents and all others who plays a strong role in a child's life.

"You are powerful, you are powerful to your child, and you are powerful to their world and where they will be," said Torres.

Torres mentioned that she

read a sticker from the event that says, "You are the key to your child's growth and development." As a parent, this is 100% true, she said, and if you want your child to succeed in life, you have to be that key.

Lizette Pascua, a parent leader of Green Meadow Middle School, later led other parent leaders in reciting the Parents Pledge.

In an interview with parent nominee from Kagman High School, John Gonzales, he mentioned that this recognition is really for all the parents. "As parents, we struggle with competing priorities, and it's really a mindset that ensures that we are successful and every parent is a winner. Every

parent must receive this award and I dedicate this award for them," he said.

When asked what parent leadership means to him, Gonzales replied, "It's listening and loving our children unconditionally. You have to spend quality time with them and to also make time. God gives us 24 hours in a day, and it's up to us to maximize and manage our time for

High surf advisory and rip current warning

A high surf advisory is now in effect until 5pm today, Monday, along north facing reefs. There is also a high risk of rip currents until 5pm today along north facing reefs. A small craft advisory is also in effect until 5pm today.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion are projected today, Monday. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Northeast winds 15 to 25 knots with gusts up to 30 knots and seas 7 to 9 feet are expected within Marianas coastal waters until 5pm today.

A high surf advisory means hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet is

those that matter, for things that matter, and that everyday we must invest time like it's the very last day."

Gonzales has been active in the Parent Leadership Month planning activities to recognize parent leaders in the community. He has been involved with numerous outreach activities with DYS and is an advocate for the wellbeing of children and their families.

expected along north facing reefs in the surf zone. For the high rip current risk, dangerous and frequent rip currents are expected along north facing reefs of the Marianas.


The public is advised to avoid venturing out along the reef line, especially along north facing reefs. Large breaking waves can knock you down. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm. Stay afloat while waiting for help. To swim out of a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly.

Sea conditions will be hazardous to small craft, which could be capsized or damaged. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. (PR)




Parent leaders pose with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, front row center, and first lady Diann Torres at the Parent Leadership Month proclamation signing at the Kagman Community Center last Jan. 31.

JUSTINE NAUTA



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20-031 Opening Date: January 29, 2020
Closing Date: **UNTIL FILLED**

CHIEF ENGINEER, P.E.

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power and water utilities to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota and wastewater utility to the island of Saipan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (Water and Waste Water) or his/her designee. The duties and responsibilities are as follows: Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work, conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making, hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work, providing technical reviews; surveying for projects, evaluating proposals, monitoring project process, approving payment, and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications, collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required by CUC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CUC is under a Stipulated order of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case 08-0051 filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

LOCATION : Water & Wastewater, Engineering Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA. (Saipan has a population of about 50K. It is adjacent to Asia and about a 3-hour flight south of Tokyo. It is about 100 miles north of the US Territory of Guam)

SALARY : Starting: \$100,000.00 Per Annum (Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience, Exempt). If hired from outside the Northern Mariana Islands, terms and conditions of the relocation cost will be negotiated. However, the accommodations shall not exceed \$5,000 for moving to the islands and shall not exceed \$5,000 for moving away from the islands.

CONTRACT POSITIONS : Two (2) years, subject to renewal
One (1)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Master's Degree in Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering. Registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical or electrical branch; Experience of ten (10) or more years as a professional engineer. **Demonstrate the following:** Proven management and communication skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Competency and proficiency in overseeing major drinking water and wastewater systems during the periods of planning, design, construction, and operation of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and in wastewater treatment, collection and conveyance systems. **Knowledge of:** Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. **Skill in:** Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical report and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Must have a U.S. driver's license. Applicants maybe tested. Subject to a pre-employment drug screening.

You may submit your completed CUC Employment Application and resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.gov

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: January 24, 2020 • CLOSING DATE: February 11, 2020
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2020-001	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	UNGRADED \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00-per annum
2020-002	CDBG-DR Project Manager – <i>In-House Announcement</i>	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00-per annum
2020-003	CDBG-DR Compliance Manager – <i>In-House Announcement</i>	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00-per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. You may also access the application online at www.nmhc.gov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

Fed cost share for hazard mitigation projects OK'd at 100%

The Federal Emergency Management Agency notified Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Saturday that President Donald J. Trump approved the CNMI's request for a cost share adjustment from 90-10 to "100% federally-funded" for projects and other expenditures for Super Typhoon Yutu under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs 406 and 404.

This means the CNMI's infrastructure projects for resiliency will be fully paid for by

the federal government. That is projected to save the CNMI approximately \$15 million in local matching funds.

"From the very beginning of the recovery period, we worked very hard to restore power, water, and essential services for our community, including temporary tents and shelters for our families whose homes were damaged or destroyed," Torres said. "Now, with this announcement, we can con-

tinue our work on our many infrastructure projects to rebuild our schools and harden our utilities and public facilities. We will improve our resiliency as a community."

He said his administration's partnership with FEMA and the White House shows what can be accomplished "when we work together for



Torres

our people."

On behalf of the CNMI, Torres thanked President Donald J. Trump, FEMA Region IX administrator Robert J. Fenton Jr., and Governor's Authorized Representative Virginia Villagomez and her team.

"This is indeed great news for the Commonwealth, and together, we will continue our

work in building a stronger Marianas," Torres said.

The governor's request for a cost share adjustment is approved under the following conditions: CNMI must maintain the 2018 International Building Code through the closeout of the disaster and must continue to prioritize mitigation projects to improve resiliency for critical infrastructure.

Villagomez said the CNMI will continue its work to meet

those conditions. "The CNMI will remain firm in its commitment to prioritize mitigation projects that will protect life and property in our community thus strengthen and improve our mitigation efforts throughout the Commonwealth," she said. "We are grateful for all the efforts that FEMA has driven to secure this approval and as partners, we look forward to successfully completing projects benefiting our community." (PR)

Scheduled water service interruption on Wednesday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for the areas of Capital Hill 1200 Block, 1300 Block, Wireless Ridge, Eggi Drive, Marshall Loop and for customers along Capital Hill Isa Drive to the Kagman Mobil Gas Station on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, from 8am to 4pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC's water operations personnel to perform re-

pairs on five service line leaks located on Marshall Loop on Capital Hill. As a result of the waterline repair, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

CUC appreciates the public's understanding and patience throughout this outage and will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers.


For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)



SCHOOL COUNSELORS WEEK

Happy National School Counselors Week (Feb. 2-7, 2020) to Hopwood Middle School counselors Ashley Roberto, Marjorie Kintol, Jill Pladevega, Livia Pangelinan, and to all CNMI counselors. Thank you all for helping us build better humans. Greetings from HMS Hilitais.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-20-009

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-20-009, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.


All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 31, 2020** to **Manny B. Sablan**, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to **Vivian Santos**, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email vivian.santos@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: February 3, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the United States Department of the Navy regarding the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the following website:
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019_DEC_13_U_N465_1492_CNMI-DCRM-trn-ltr-16-DEC-19-TO-MS.-REYES.pdf and
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019_DEC_10_U_N465_1467_ENCL-TO_CNMI-DCRM-trn-ltr-10-DEC-19.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for thirty (30) days, comment period began on January 7, 2020 and will end on February 7, 2020. This comment period has been extended to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 22

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Misinformation has become a secondary infection in the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak

Scattered in with the legitimate news headlines circulating on social media regarding the deadly coronavirus outbreak are a worrisome number of fake news items and outright hoaxes.

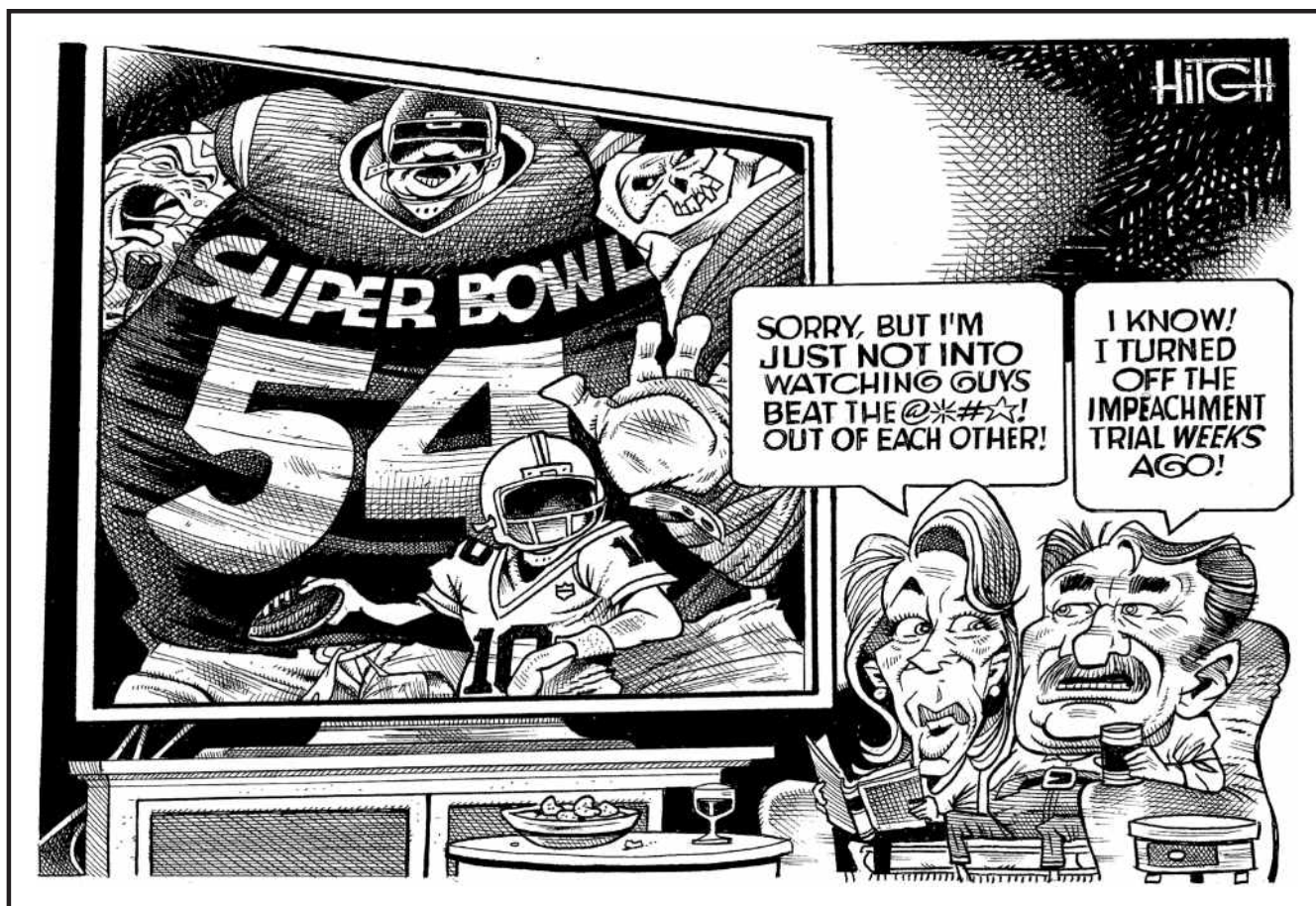
Here's are a few egregious examples: The outbreak is much worse than the government is admitting. Millions have been infected and thousands of people are literally keeling over in the streets of China. Bill Gates' foundation predicted this outbreak (maybe even created it) and projects that it will kill 65 million people. You won't be one of them if you have oregano oil on hand, because it can prevent coronavirus infections.

It's scary enough that despite intensive efforts to stop it, this infection has spread so far and wide since it was first identified in Wuhan, China, on Jan. 9. But the last thing public health officials need as they work to track down and treat new cases is to have to address all the fake news that whips up unfounded fear and seems to be spreading faster than the virus itself.

Though rumors and misinformation have been a side effect of viral outbreaks for as long as humans have been plagued by them, social media networks now amplify irresponsible and hysterical memes that might otherwise remain on the fringes. A tweet or post with dubious information can spread to all corners of the internet in minutes. Facebook, Twitter and Google have taken steps to steer people toward legitimate information and sites such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Wuhan coronavirus fact page, but misleading items are still available online.

No doubt some of the people who share bad information do so unwittingly and truly intend to be helpful. But those who make up stories or peddle obvious untruths amid a public health crisis for their own sick purpose or to make a buck deserve a special place in hell. Scaring people with false information or soothing them with fake remedies puts them in real danger. Just look at the harm done by people sharing false information about the risks of childhood vaccinations. Parents shied away from immunizing their kids, and measles—a deadly disease once declared eradicated—roared back to life.

So far, the new coronavirus has mostly been contained in China. But it is spreading. Though its movement has probably been slowed by the steps China and global health officials have taken to isolate Wuhan's inhabitants, limit travel to the region and screen travelers from affected areas, new cases are cropping up across the globe. On Wednesday, public health officials announced that the coronavirus cases

See **OUTBREAK** on Next Page

Yes, we're polarized, but how do we get unpolarized?

First of all, thank you for reading.

I know you have a lot of choices to chew up your time, so I appreciate you spending some of it with me.

I'm being extra nice because I've been reading the much-talked-about book "Why We're Polarized," by journalist Ezra Klein, the founder of Vox, host of a popular podcast and passionately devoted analyst of political science studies.

The importance of the political polarization topic has been increasingly obvious as we've headed into election years like this one. You could hear it from Democrats on Friday, frustrated after Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee declined to cast one of the four votes Democrats needed from Republicans to call for witnesses in the Senate impeachment trial of President Donald Trump.

Perhaps inevitably, one of the culprits singled out by Klein as a factor in our deeply divided state is the news media. As I often have observed, no one criticizes media more than those of us who work in the profession, and Klein has noticed the obvious: In the rush for eyeballs, profit-driven media are behaving as competitively as television news always has.

And as Klein reminds us, we've had an explosion of news media choices, more than any normal human could keep up with.

Think back. Between 1995 and 2005, our choices expanded greatly. In 1995, we had our hometown papers, a few radio stations, the three nightly network newscasts, the 15-year-old CNN and a few news magazines.

A decade later, we had access via our favorite web browser to almost any newspaper or magazine in the world, Fox News and MSNBC in the cable news race as well as satellite radio, podcasts, blogs and—well, you get the idea.

But working along with the media influence are other polarizing factors, particularly one that a lot of people are not always comfortable talking about. "A core argument of this book," he writes, "is that everyone engaged in American politics is engaged in identity politics."

Not that there is anything wrong with that, Klein hastens to add. "This is not an insult, and it's not controversial. ... Identity is present in politics in the way gravity, evolution or cognition is present in politics ... because it is omnipresent in us."

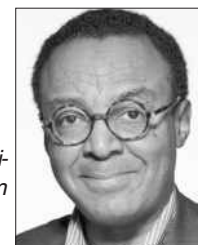
Unfortunately, the term "identity politics" has been weaponized to a degree that it is almost impossible to use it to engage others without having to explain how your identity shapes you and that engagement.

Part of the confusion stems from the use of the term to demonize marginalized groups that are organizing in their own interests. That includes not only controversial, loosely organized movements such as Black Lives Matter, but also more mainstream campaigns for pay equity for women and people of color.

By **CLARENCE PAGE**

Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.



And tribal politics, let us not forget, are not limited to one party. When we saw working-class white men and married white women turn from voting for Democrat Barack Obama in the 2008 and 2012 elections to Republican Donald Trump in 2016, not many people referred to Trump's appeal as "tribal politics." But the proper use of that term helps us understand why the switch was made and whether those voters might ever switch back.

To me, the polarization of America's party politics explains the shift of African American voters from the Republican to Democratic parties. Close to 40% of black voters—including my parents—voted for the Republican candidate and war hero Dwight Eisenhower in the 1950s. The realignment we see today began in 1964 after the Republican "Party of Lincoln" nominated Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater, who had voted against the Civil Rights Act that year.

It's hard to believe that, as Klein points out, the American Political Science Association in the 1950s complained that the two parties weren't more polarized, so voters would have more ideological choices.

Today in Washington, Congress and the White House have been gridlocked by too much polarization.

Other factors cited by Klein include campaign finance laws that, ironically, made the parties weaker as candidates found alternative funding sources. The growth of independent fundraising, including donations from outside of one's state, encouraged more extremes as big money donors promoted more extreme positions.

Unfortunately, Klein does a lot more explaining of our problems than offering of solutions, but changing our "framework for understanding" is closer to his purpose, he says. That's OK. We need some strategic road maps and moral compasses to understand one another in these rapidly changing times.

We can begin, for example, with reintroducing ourselves to each other and doing a better job of listening across party and tribal lines. We have the technology and the anger to bring a lot of heat to politics. We also need to try to bring some light.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The coronavirus: 1918 all over again?

Clusters of a dozen or so deaths may get nonstop “if-it-bleeds-it-leads” press coverage. But the lack of preparedness for the really, really big threats may be met with virtual radio silence—until panic breaks out.

The worst, possibly existential, threat is the stealthy, invisible one that multiplies exponentially—in the accurate sense of the term: 400 cases today, 800 tomorrow, then 1,600, 3,200, 6,400, 128,000, 256,000, 512,000, and 1.024 million after only eight doubling times. Biological threats proliferate—until they run out of susceptible victims.

In 1918, the great influenza pandemic killed as many people in 11 months as the medieval Black Death did in four years. Ultimately, at least 50 million may have perished. Young healthy people, especially young soldiers headed off to the front in World War I, succumbed quickly. To avoid interfering with the war effort, the U.S. government denied and covered up the threat, preventing the implementation of public health measures.

Since then, the world has gotten smaller. A virus that jumps the species barrier from animals to humans in a meat market in China can cross the Pacific in hours. And despite the expenditure of \$80 billion on a national biologic defense, the U.S. is arguably no better prepared than it was in 1918, state Steven Hatfill, M.D., and coauthors in their new book, *Three Seconds until Midnight*.

As in 1918, we lack a vaccine or wonder drugs, but must rely on non-pharmaceutical interventions and on public health authorities to track and try to contain the spread of infection.

Accurate information is critical. Can we trust governmental authorities to tell the truth? Travel restrictions, quarantine, closing businesses, and cancelling public events have a huge economic and potential political cost.

There can also be incentives to exaggerate the threat, in order to sell poorly tested vaccines or drugs. The 1976 swine flu epidemic was almost a non-event; more people were probably injured or even died from adverse effects of the heavily promoted vaccine.

The World Health Organization has so far declined to declare the coronavirus outbreak a global emergency, although cases have been reported in more than a dozen or so countries. China reported only hundreds of “confirmed” cases—while countless additional cases were not tested because of lack of diagnostic test kits.

The *New England Journal of Medicine* writes, “Another Decade, Another Coronavirus.” This 2019-nCoV virus is the third zoonotic (animal) coronavirus to infect humans in two decades. The SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) were contained. Other coronaviruses cause mild cold-like syndromes.

This virus has occasioned the quarantine of entire cities, for the first time since medieval times. This could not be done other than in authoritarian China, states virologist Steven Hatfill, but even there it is unlikely to be effective—especially if 5 million people had left before the order was implemented.

The People’s Liberation Army has sent 450 medical personnel to Wuhan to help out at local hospitals, which are crammed with patients lying in packed corridors. Construction workers are reportedly trying to build a 1,000-bed hospital in Wuhan in five days. The U.S. and other nations are evacuating their citizens from Wuhan.

A report of 41 hospitalized patients in Wuhan, published in *The*

Lancet, showed that patients were relatively young (median age 49) and fewer than half had an underlying illness. Only 66% had been exposed to the Huanan seafood market, the apparent source of the infection. One patient (2%) had no fever; all had pneumonia; 29% had severe respiratory distress syndrome; and 12% had acute cardiac injury. Most cases may be very mild, facilitating more rapid spread.

The coronavirus is transmitted by droplets coming into contact with mucous membranes, including the eye. It can persist on surfaces for days. People without fever or symptoms can transmit the illness during the incubation period, which might be as long as two weeks. At present, definitive diagnostic testing is available only from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In a severe outbreak, people whose job is not critical may need to stay home. Those who do not have a supply of food, essential medications, or other needed supplies would likely end up in a frantic crowd. Personal protective gear, for people who need to be in contact with the public or care for a sick family member, is already out of stock in medical supply houses. This includes gloves, wrap-around eye protection, and N-95 protective masks—regular surgical masks are probably of little help.

Panic is never helpful; staying calm is always good advice. But failure to heed previous warnings of the need for robust disaster planning, and complacency about medical technology and governmental resources, has set the stage for potential unprec-

By **JANE M. ORIENT**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jane M. Orient, M.D. obtained her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1974. She completed an internal medicine residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital and University of Arizona Affiliated Hospitals. She has been in solo private practice since 1981 and has served as executive director of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) since 1989. She is currently president of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness. She is also a writer.



edented disaster.

Individuals need to recognize that they themselves, and not 911 or the emergency room or the Federal Emergency Management Agency, may hold the key to their family’s and their community’s survival. Local authorities need to know that they may be on their own.

For now, stock up on supplies; cover those coughs and sneezes; wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds; avoid crowds; and stay aware, as the situation could change rapidly.

Trumpty Dumpty Tweeter Tales

“I, who once wrote songs with joyful zeal, am driven by grief to enter a weeping mode.”

—Opening lines to *The Consolation of Philosophy* by Boethius in 525 A.D. Written in Latin (in prison) before his brutal execution. He had risen to political heights in the court of King Theodoric when he was implicated in a conspiracy and condemned to death. *Consolation of Philosophy* personified and she’s talking to him.

Tweeter Trump Tweets

(after Lord Tennyson’s *Blow, Bugle, Blow*)

The dishonor falls inside White House walls and in the House and Senate impeachment hearing the obfuscation spreads across the entire nation and few seekers of truth are happy or cheering. Tweeter Trump tweets, sends you his lies flying. Tweeter Trump’s cancerous answers dying dying look at them, read, see how absurd each word and getting worse, call a doctor, get a nurse. The stubborn Senators blot them all out the House of Representatives continues to shout let witnesses be heard on all news rivers, let testimony be in the Congressional Record forever.

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



Tweet Trumpty tweet, let the U.S. hear witnesses let them see your totally unfit political fitnesses.

Tweets on Call off Pennsylvania Avenue

Since impeachment my thoughts continue via tweet that they control; my destiny there is no doubt a major part of my policies with all those I meet tweets give my ineptitude a great deal of clout. Regardless of poor grammar they come from my heart military, global, and national issues get no consulting my staff and career political advisors try to do their part meanwhile DOJ, FBI, and the ‘lying media’ I am insulting. As my tweets fly through cyberspace both day and night those seeking favor and votes appeal to my red base the major percentage of them cater to the far right the cruder the better no need to save any face. Capable of thousands of more lies intended for you my narcissistic mind makes all of them untrue.

OUTBREAK

From Page 10






have reached 6,165, with 133 deaths connected to the infection. Most of the cases, and all the deaths, are in China, which has now logged more cases than were seen with SARS—another deadly coronavirus that originated in China in 2002. There are five coronavirus cases in the U.S., including two in Southern California.

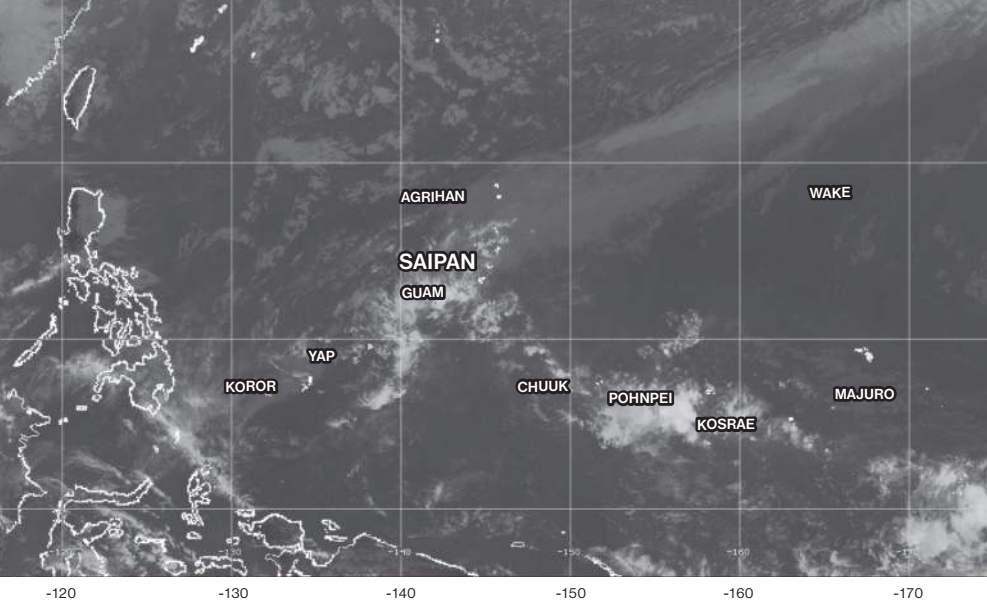
Clearly, the risk posed by the coronavirus is real. And there is no vaccine for it yet, though researchers are working to develop one. That means the best defense in the early stages of the outbreak is solid, trustworthy, science-based information. Kudos to the journalists, public health officials and social media platforms that are working to disinfect the false outbreak memes and inoculate the information channels with authentic and helpful information from actual health professionals.

(c)2020 Los Angeles Times



The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	88°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:06 AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows numerous showers over the Marianas waters this morning, associated with interaction between a disturbance to the south and a shear line to the northwest. The VAD wind profile indicates northeast winds of 17 to 22 knots just off the surface which then turn east, southeast and finally south. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 8 feet, composed mainly of 5 foot wind waves and also north swell from this shear line when it was a cold front, farther north.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Windy	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Windy	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	36° / 18°	
Hong Kong	Showers	64° / 59°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	81° / 68°	
London	Showers	52° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79° / 57°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	74° / 67°	
New York	Sunny	56° / 42°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	48° / 37°	
Paris	Showers	55° / 43°	
Busan	Sunny	41° / 27°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	66° / 53°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	53° / 41°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	32° / 12°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	57° / 36°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	64° / 47°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:08 AM	LOW TIDE	1.14	
7:53 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.87	
1:48 PM	LOW TIDE	1.53	
9:29 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.12	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:15 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:54 AM	12:44 PM
Tuesday	-	1:46 AM	1:29 PM
Wednesday	-	2:40 AM	2:18 PM
Thursday	-	3:37 AM	3:12 PM
Friday	-	4:36 AM	4:11 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 18, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ623	6:45am	12:10pm	5
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	7:00am	12:20pm	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6	TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
				OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
				7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U864	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	12:10pm+1	5 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	12:20pm+1	7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	12:10pm	5 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	12:20pm	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	12:15am+1	7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
				UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
				UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Contractor files \$2.08M suit vs. IPI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A contractor filed a lawsuit in federal court against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC last Thursday for allegedly refusing to pay \$2,089,345 over landscaping improvements for IPI's hotel-casino project in Garapan.

USA Fanter, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, sued IPI for breach of contract and unjust enrichment.

USA Fanter wants IPI held liable to pay \$2.08 million in contract damages, and is also seeking payment for interest and attorney's fees.

It also asked the court to attach a mechanic's lien to IPI's interests in the real property on the project.

A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those

who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

The contractor wants IPI's real property interests in the Garapan project to be sold and the proceeds of the sale be used to pay it.

Thompson stated in the complaint that USA Fanter terminated its contract with IPI last Monday and that the contractor repeatedly demanded that IPI pay all amounts due and owing for work performed, but IPI failed to pay.

The lawyer said the plaintiff invoked the dispute resolution clause in the contract after IPI refused to negotiate in good faith.

Thompson said that last Dec. 29, USA Fanter demanded to mediate their claims, but IPI refused.

USA Fanter and IPI executed the contract for the project on June 18, 2019.



NEW GRADUATES

Graduates of the Adult Basic Education Program at Northern Marianas College on Rota pose for a group photo with NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico. This is the third cohort of the graduates that completed the Adult Basic Education program. For more information on the Adult Basic Education program at NMC, visit marianas.edu. NMC

Rewards for info on Guam animal attacks increased

GUAM—Guam Animals In Need announced Friday that rewards for information on two disturbing, recent animal cruelty incidents have been increased.

The reward for the Merizo pet poisoner has been doubled, and is now \$4,000 for information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible.

» \$4,000 for info on Merizo pet poisoner; \$3,000 for info on Zeus attacker

Twenty pets—18 dogs and two cats—belonging to three families living on Quinene Road in Merizo died under suspicious circumstances in mid-November. Due to the locations of the pets, accidental poisoning was ruled out. Dr. Lisa Silk, of Isla Veterinary Clinic, confirmed that blood work and clinical analysis completed on two pets show evidence of antifreeze poisoning. Poisoning a pet is a felony under Guam law.

The reward for the attacker of Zeus has been tripled, and is now \$3,000 for information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible.

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, sometime before 9:30pm, a person or persons trespassed onto the private property of Rossane Ikertang on Swamp Road in Dededo. They drenched her dog, Zeus, with gasoline, and beat him so severely that blood was found splattered on the outside walls of the home. Bloody rocks, including a large piece of cinder block, were found at the scene. When Zeus was found, the 5-year-old half-pitbull and half-boonie mix was terrified and in severe pain. He is now recovering at home after help

and donations from the public.

The increases are made possible by donors who reached out to GAIN wanting to help catch the perpetrators. Marion Look, a long-time supporter

of GAIN and animal welfare causes in Guam, donated \$1,000 toward the rewards increase. A second donor, who lives in Guam and wishes to remain anonymous, donated an additional \$2,000. And, Dr. Thomas Poole, Guam's territorial veterinarian who has long fought against animal cruelty, is personally donating \$1,000.

"We won't let this slide.

We won't stop until we get justice," said GAIN board president Cyrus Luhr. "We're boosting the rewards, and increasing pressure on monsters who did this."

"These were truly evil acts. We need to catch these criminals before more animals or people are hurt," said Luhr. GAIN reminds the public that they can collect the reward while remaining anonymous by calling Guam Crime Stoppers.

Anyone with information about these violent crimes is urged to contact GPD, GAIN at 653-4246, or Guam Crime Stoppers at 477-HELP (4357) or guam.crimestoppersweb.com. (GAIN)



Northern Marianas College Procurement and Property Management

P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6804 • Fax: (670) 234-1270
www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS NMC IFB 20-0001

GROUND CARE & LANDSCAPING SERVICES

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Campus Grounds Care & Landscaping Services for the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing Monday, January 27, 2020 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Email request may be sent to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Pre-bid conference is scheduled for February 04th, 2020 at 09:00am, Bldg P. College Conference, attendance is strongly recommended.

Bid Submissions are due no later than 10:00 a.m., February 12, 2020, at Northern Marianas College, Procurement Office, Bldg O, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, MP 96950.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Management Office

The Northern Marianas College is a Land Grant Institution accredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

Amendment No. 1

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,323,285.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$867,556.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$386,617.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$69,112.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2020.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning November 14, 2019. You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhc.gov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 31, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m.** Applications submitted after March 31, 2020, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

**February 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian—
February 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota
February 13, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota—
February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian**

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

Business

FORK & SPOON: House of Sizzling is now open

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Fork & Spoon: House of Sizzling doesn't beat around the bush about its specialty: steak, pork, and seafood dishes served on a cast iron sizzling hot plate.

It is fast food but in a restaurant setting, according to Ray Boongaling, who owns the new restaurant with his wife, Joan. You place your order, the dish is prepared in just minutes, and it

is served on a sizzling plate.

Fork & Spoon, which opened last Saturday at its Springs Plaza location in Gualo Rai, is inspired by the couple's travel experiences.

"As foodies, my wife and I know the basic needs of people who are on the go but, at the same time, love good food," Ray Boongaling said.

He said the restaurant is not only a place to eat but also to gather with family or friends. "We are still improving the



A meal that is right on the tummy and budget.

DONNA RIVERA



BEA CABRERA

Husband and wife Ray and Joan Boongaling are self-professed foodies and their travels inspired them to open up Fork & Spoon: House of Sizzling.



Fork & Spoon: House of Sizzling is located in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

BEA CABRERA

décor of the restaurant but we want it to have a comfortable vibe so that people will always feel welcome," he added.

Their menu include garlic steak bites, rice sisig, beef pepper rice, pepper squid, gar-

lic shrimp, pork pepper rice and an 8-oz. New York steak. All items are affordable and absolutely delicious.

Having one's dish served on a sizzling plate helps customer be creative about their food. "They can put sauces and add-ons like french fries, corn, rice," said Ray Boongaling. "They can also choose how they want their meat and veg-

etables cooked, since the dish is on a sizzling plate."

In the pipeline is a plan for Fork & Spoon to also serve non-sizzling dishes, for those who prefer their food that way.

Since the sizzling plate concept is popular worldwide, Fork & Spoon welcomes residents and tourists alike. "We welcome families, employees, students and even tourists to Fork

& Spoon. They will definitely experience a different concept and taste as there is nothing like this on Saipan yet," said Ray Boongaling.

Fork & Spoon: House of Sizzling is open Monday to Sunday from 10am to 9pm. For more information call (670)235-5626 and look them up on Facebook and Instagram, @forkandspoon.

Experts: Travel bans, business closures could hurt economy

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Travel restrictions and business closures aimed at stopping the spread of a new virus that has killed more than 300 people in China could end up causing ripple effects that harm the global economy, experts say.

"When you stop planes and ships, trains and and motor vehicles from moving, it starts to shut down the economy — and that can have a cascading effect throughout society," Dr. Eric Toner, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said Saturday, after multiple airlines announced that they would suspend or cut back on flights to and from China, and several countries, including the U.S., imposed travel restrictions. "And it's not just airline pilots who get out of work, I mean, it's you know, it's everybody that they depend on."

It's not just airlines that have cut back on business in China.

Apple Inc. announced Saturday that it was temporarily close all of its offices and its 42 stores in mainland China. Google, Amazon and Microsoft previously announced plans to temporarily shutter offices, and Starbucks and McDonald's have closed some chains.

Apple said it was acting "out of an abundance of caution and based on the latest advice from leading health experts." Its stores will be closed until Feb. 9.

Toner said Apple's decision could also be harmful to the economy and Apple itself, though he noted that many companies, including airlines, are trying to protect their employees.

Toner led a summit in October with World Economic Forum and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to discuss the negative impacts of trade and travel restrictions during a pandemic. In a paper that came out of that meeting, the Johns

Hopkins Center for Health Security concluded that "fear and uncertainty experienced during past outbreaks, even those limited to a national or regional level, have sometimes led to unjustified border measures."

The U.S., Australia, Singapore and Japan have imposed travel restrictions and Vietnam suspended all flights to China. U.S. officials pointed to how quickly the virus has spread around the globe as justification, although world health officials have warned against such measures.

At least 24 countries have reported cases of the new virus, which is from the coronavirus family.

"Travel restrictions can cause more harm than good by hindering info-sharing, medical supply chains and harming economies," World Health Organization Secretary-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

IT&E and 10T Tech launch consumer eSIM service

IT&E and 10T Tech Limited are launching today, Feb. 3, 2020, its digital eSIM service in the CNMI and Guam. This advanced service allows smartphone owners with the latest Apple iPhones, iPads and Google Pixel 3 and 3a devices to sign up for IT&E services by purchasing a QR code.

"We're excited to partner with Apple and 10T Tech to be the first certified carrier in Guam and the Marianas to offer eSIM," said Jim Oehlerking, chief executive officer of IT&E. "Providing our subscribers with the latest mobile technology and convenience is our highest priority."

Subscribers will benefit from a more streamlined experience. According to Sean Leon Guerrero, Network Device

Performance technician at IT&E, "eSIM, or embedded SIM, serves the same functionality as a traditional physical SIM card but allows for multiple SIM profiles to be stored on the device. eSIM enables a function called Dual-SIM Dual-Standby (DSDS), which allows IT&E customers to send and receive calls and text messages from two different numbers, like their work and personal numbers, on the same device. When travelling IT&E customers can enjoy our Mobile Passport the same way with the freedom of being able to use another SIM at the same time."

Lucy Aponik, supervisor of Global Roaming & Device Technology at IT&E, said the introduction of eSIM "is another example of our commit-

ment to rolling out technology that brings meaningful and tangible benefit to our customers. We continue to densify our network, expand our global roaming footprint and deploy enhanced device features for our customers to fully benefit from the capabilities of their smartphones. Our roadmap will continue leading the way with our customers first."

Initially, customers will use a printed QR Code voucher to instruct their device to download the eSIM Profile. In the future, IT&E will launch a fully digital sign-up experience where mobile subscribers can use an electronic QR code to download their eSIM profile.

For more information about the eSIM now available at IT&E, visit ite.net. (PR)

Nation

US evacuees 'relieved' about quarantine on military base

RIVERSIDE, California (AP)—Nearly 200 Americans evacuated from China because of the new virus are “very relieved” to be quarantined at a military base in Southern California for two weeks, one of them said Friday.

“All of us really want to stay here and make sure we’re all medically clear and the public safe,” said Matthew L. McCoy, a theme park designer who lives in China.

McCoy is among the 195 Americans who returned on a

charter flight earlier this week from Wuhan, the Chinese city at the center of the outbreak. Initially, health officials asked them to stay at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside for up to three days of monitoring and testing.

On Friday, the government ordered them into quarantine for two weeks. Health officials believe it can take up to two weeks for someone who is infected to get sick. So far there’s been no sign of illness.

It was the first federal order

since 1963, when a woman was quarantined after she returned from a trip to Sweden during a smallpox outbreak, and she could not prove that she had been vaccinated.

“We understand this action may seem drastic. We would rather be remembered for overreacting than underreacting,” said Dr. Nancy Messonnier of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Later Friday, the government declared a public health emergency and said any other Americans returning to the U.S. from Hubei province, which includes Wuhan, will also be quarantined for two weeks. The State Department is planning more flights to bring Americans out of Wuhan.

McCoy lives in Shanghai but got stuck in Wuhan during a business trip when Chinese authorities shut down the city of 11 million people because of the outbreak. Other evacuees include U.S. government employees and their families.

“Everybody was very relieved” about the quarantine order, McCoy said by telephone. “We wanted to make sure all the tests were done first.”

At the military base about 60 miles (97 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, the evacuees are staying in hotel-style housing

and have spent time walking and exercising, some wearing masks, said Jose Arballo Jr., a spokesman for the county’s public health agency.

As of Friday, none of the evacuees had shown signs of illness, he said. The CDC said test results are still coming in for the group; all have been negative so far.

One person tried to leave the base Wednesday night and was quarantined by the county. The CDC’s Dr. Martin Cetron on Friday said that incident did not drive the decision for the federal quarantine.

McCoy said he’s been able to keep up with his work in his room on the base and has hooked his computer up to the television screen. Children are outside playing, and everyone is trying to make the experience as easy as possible for each other, he said.

Another evacuee said he had been hoping to get out over the weekend but was OK with the order.

“It’s the right thing to do, and I completely understand, and so do a lot of other people here on the base,” said Jarred Evans, who moved to Wuhan several years ago to play in a Chinese football league.

“People want to go home. But it’s better than being stuck in the epidemic center,” he said.

Analysis: GOP sends message that Trump’s actions were OK



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., signals thumbs-up leaving the Senate chamber during the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020. **AP**

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans have decided it was OK.

With their expected vote this coming week to acquit President Donald Trump of abusing power and obstructing Congress, GOP senators are giving their express approval to the conduct that landed Trump at the center of the fourth impeachment case in American history. It’s the same message that House Republicans sent late last year with their unanimous votes against sending the case to trial.

It’s a fitting conclusion for a president who has spent three years testing the boundaries of his office and daring his own party to restrain him as his power and popularity within the GOP grew. It was already clear heading into the impeachment inquiry just how reluctant Republicans were to challenge Trump’s impulses. Coming out of the trial it’s uncertain whether there is anything he can do in office that would draw more than a passing, rhetorical rebuke from his party.

To Democrats, who initiated the impeachment process in hopes of pulling at least a handful of moderate or retiring GOP lawmakers to their side, Repub-

licans are sending the message that, when it comes to Trump, nothing matters. His grip on the party is complete.

“No,” Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, one of the House Democratic impeachment managers, said in a retort to Republicans. “Lawlessness matters, abuse of power matters, corruption matters. The Constitution matters.”

The reasons are clear for Republican lawmakers’ fealty to Trump. When he was a candidate in the 2016 primary, nearly all of them opposed him, often in terms as harsh as Democrats now use. Today, he inspires a loyalty borne of fear and retribution but also of the belief that Republicans’ own political fortunes are directly tied to his.

Though that brings with it risk in the November election, most vulnerable Republicans cannot succeed without him.

On the brink of the acquittal vote, some Republican senators insist that doesn’t mean they are simply giving Trump a pass. They argue there is more to consider in this moment than a yes or no question on whether Trump violated his oath of office by pushing Ukraine to investigate his Democratic opponents and blocking Congress’ ability to investigate the matter.



ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 2 dead in fiery interstate crash near Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP)—A multi-vehicle crash that sent large flames and black smoke billowing over a busy interstate near Atlanta has left two people dead and snarled traffic for hours, police said Saturday. Officials in Gwinnett County said the accident occurred on a northbound stretch of Interstate 85 at about 7:50 a.m. in an area northeast of Atlanta. Large flames and thick black smoke could be seen rising from the interstate near an exit to another major thoroughfare, Jimmy Carter Boulevard. Police reported a loud explosion was heard in the crash and said a tanker truck and a passenger vehicle were completely engulfed in flames.

Virginia: Random gunfire reported, boy found fatally shot

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Authorities in Virginia’s capital city are investigating a shooting that left a 3-year-old boy dead. Richmond Police say officers were called to a location on Southlawn

Avenue shortly after 4 p.m. Saturday in response to reports of random gunfire and a person being shot. Police say officers found a boy with an apparent gunshot wound. He died at a local hospital. Detectives are continuing their investigation.

Mississippi inmate tries to hang self in cell, attorney says

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—An inmate tried to hang himself at a troubled Mississippi prison and was taken down by a state trooper, an attorney said in court papers filed Saturday. Casey L. Austin is one of the attorneys representing inmates in a federal lawsuit against Mississippi over conditions in the state’s prisons. The lawsuit over prison conditions is funded by Team Roc, a philanthropic group connected to entertainment mogul Jay-Z’s company, Roc Nation. Austin wrote that he was inside the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman to interview inmates Friday when the incident occurred. “At approximately 2:00 p.m., I heard a Mississippi State

Trooper tell the Unit 29 lobby Correctional Officer that he had just ‘cut one down,’” Austin wrote. “He then explained to Correctional Officer that he had cut down an inmate who had tried to hang himself in his cell.”

Men wanted by police in Seattle shooting arrested in Nevada

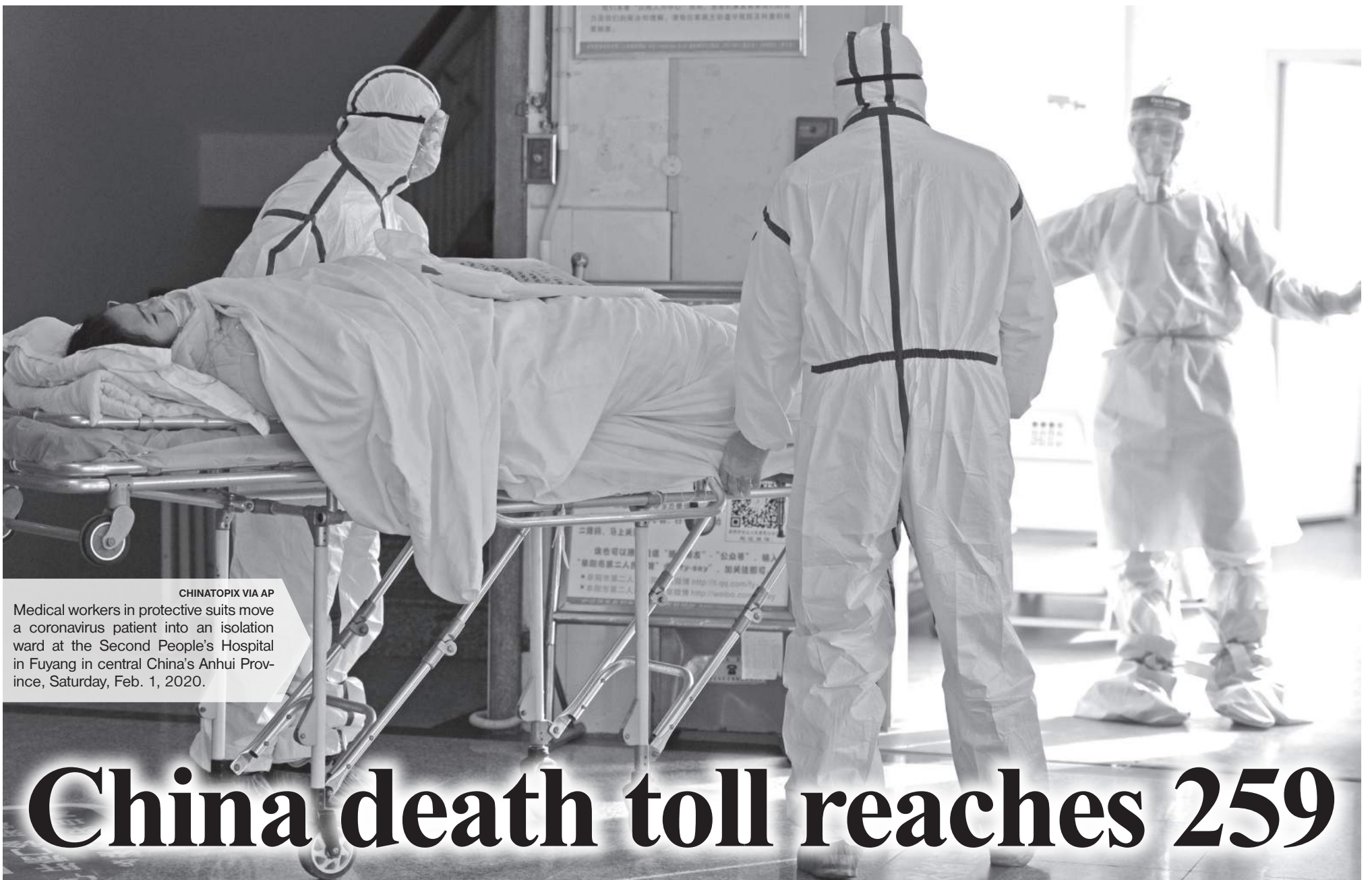
SEATTLE (AP)—Two men who investigators say were involved in a downtown Seattle shooting that killed one person and injured seven others were arrested Saturday, the Seattle Police Department said. The Seattle Times and the Las Vegas Review-Journal report that Marquise Tolbert, 24, and William Tolliver, 24, were booked into jail in Clark County, Nevada, according to jail records. Tolbert and Tolliver were identified by police as suspects last week after the Jan. 22 shooting at Third Avenue and Pine Street. Records show both have lengthy arrest records. The men, who were taken into custody in Las Vegas, “complied when confronted by detectives,” Metropolitan Police Depart-

ment Lt. Ken Nogle told the Review-Journal.

Man convicted of illegally owning tiger cub seen on YouTube

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Southern California man has been convicted of illegally owning a tiger cub that appeared in a video with controversial YouTube star Logan Paul. Nicholas Perkins, 33, was placed on probation for three years, ordered to pay nearly \$6,000 in fines and \$52,000 in veterinary bills after the tiger was seized in November 2017, Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said. Perkins was also ordered to attend 16 hours of classes on animal cruelty and cooperate with any investigation into who bred and sold the tiger named Neil. “We should never allow any animal to be exploited,” Feuer told The Los Angeles Times this week. “The defendant’s conduct here is illegal—and flaunting this treatment of an exotic, endangered baby tiger on social media sent a horrible message that behavior like this is OK. It isn’t.”

Asia



CHINATOPIX VIA AP

Medical workers in protective suits move a coronavirus patient into an isolation ward at the Second People's Hospital in Fuyang in central China's Anhui Province, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020.

China death toll reaches 259

BEIJING (AP)—China's death toll from a new virus rose to 259 on Saturday and a World Health Organization official said other governments need to prepare for "domestic outbreak control" if the disease spreads in their countries.

Beijing criticized Washington's order barring entry to most foreigners who visited China in the past two weeks.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced similar measures Saturday, following Japan and Singapore.

South Korea and India flew hundreds of their citizens out of Wuhan, the city at the center of an area where some 50 million people are prevented from leaving in a sweeping anti-virus effort. The evacuees went into a two-week quarantine. Indonesia also sent a plane.

The number of confirmed cases in China rose to 11,791, surpassing the number in the 2002-03 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. The virus' rapid spread in two months prompted the World Health Organization on Thursday to declare it a global emergency.

That declaration "flipped the switch" from a cautious attitude to recommending governments prepare for the possibility the virus might spread, said the WHO

representative in Beijing, Gauden Galea. Most cases reported so far have been people who visited China or their family members.

The agency acted out of concern for poorer countries that might not be equipped to respond, said Galea. Such a declaration calls for a coordinated international response and can bring more money and resources.

WHO said it was especially concerned that some cases abroad involved human-to-human transmission.

"Countries need to get ready for possible importation in order to identify cases as early as possible and in order to be ready for a domestic outbreak control, if that happens," Galea told The Associated Press.

On Friday, the United States declared a public health emergency and President Donald Trump signed an order barring entry to foreign nationals who visited China within the last 14 days, which scientists say is the virus' longest incubation period. The restrictions don't apply to immediate family of American citizens and permanent residents.

China criticized the U.S. controls and "unfriendly comments" that Beijing was failing to cooperate.

"Just as the WHO recom-

More than 14,550 infected

A viral outbreak that began in China has infected more than 14,550 people globally.

Cases confirmed as of Sunday morning in Beijing:

■ China: 14,380 cases on the mainland. In addition, Hong Kong has 14 cases and Macao has seven. Most of the 304 deaths have been in central Hubei province, where illnesses from the new type of coronavirus were first detected in December.

■ Thailand: 19
■ Japan: 20
■ Singapore: 18
■ South Korea: 15
■ Taiwan: 10

■ Malaysia: 8
■ Australia: 7
■ Germany: 8
■ United States: 8
■ France: 6
■ Vietnam: 6
■ Canada: 4
■ United Arab Emirates: 5

■ Russia: 2
■ Italy: 2
■ Britain: 2
■ Cambodia: 1
■ Finland: 1
■ India: 1
■ Philippines: 1
■ Nepal: 1
■ Sri Lanka: 1
■ Sweden: 1
■ Spain 1 (AP)

mended against travel restrictions, the U.S. rushed to go in the opposite way. Certainly not a gesture of goodwill," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

WHO Secretary-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that despite the emergency declaration, there is "no reason for measures that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade."

Meanwhile, iPhone-maker Apple announced Saturday that it was closing all of its 42

stores as well as its corporate offices in mainland China, one of its largest markets, until Feb. 9.

The ruling Communist Party postponed the end of the Lunar New Year holiday in Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, for an unspecified "appropriate extent" and appealed to people there to stay home.

Another locked-down city in Hubei, Huanggang, on Saturday banned almost all residents from leaving their

homes in the most stringent controls imposed yet. The government said only one person from each household for food once every two days.

"Others are not allowed to go out except for medical treatment, to do epidemic prevention and control work or to work in supermarkets and pharmacies," it said in an announcement.

China's anti-disease controls started with the Jan. 23 suspension of plane, bus and train links to Wuhan, an industrial center of 11 million people. The lockdown has spread to surrounding cities.

The holiday, China's busiest annual travel season, ends Sunday in the rest of the country following a three-day extension to postpone the return to factories and offices by hundreds of millions of workers. The official Xinhua News Agency said people in Hubei who work outside the province also were given an extended holiday.

The party decision "highlighted the importance of prevention and control of the epidemic among travelers," Xinhua said.

Beginning Sunday, the United States will direct flights from China to seven major airports where passengers can

be screened. Those returning from Hubei province will be subject to a 14-day quarantine. On Saturday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper approved a request from the Department of Health and Human Services for the possible use of military facilities to accommodate 1,000 people who may have to be quarantined upon arrival from overseas.

American Airlines, British Airways, Finnair and Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific have canceled or cut back service to mainland China. Vietnam suspended all flights to China. Delta Air Lines said Saturday that it was accelerating plans to suspend its flights between the U.S. and China, with the last flight from China now leaving Sunday.

The U.S. order followed a travel advisory for Americans to consider leaving China. Japan and Germany also advised against nonessential travel to China. Britain did as well, except for Hong Kong and Macao.

Countries including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Turkey all evacuated some citizens from China on Saturday. The Kremlin said Russia would use its air force planes starting Saturday for evacuations.

World

Trump curbs immigrants from 6 nations in election-year push

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration announced Friday that it was restricting immigrants from

Brexit: Day 1 brings talk of EU unity with trade talks ahead

LONDON (AP)—If you thought the drawn-out battle over the U.K.'s departure from the European Union was painful, wait until you see what comes next.

While Britain formally left the EU at 11 p.m. local time Friday, the hard work of building a new economic relationship between the bloc and its ex-member has just begun. There are difficult negotiations ahead as the U.K. goes its own way while trying to preserve links with its biggest trading partner, covering everything from tariffs and product standards to British industry's ability to recruit foreign workers and the EU's access to U.K. fishing grounds.

"There's a massive agenda to be agreed: trade in goods, trade in services, data protection, security cooperation, aviation, road haulage, fishing, you know the list is endless," said Jill Rutter, a senior research fellow at U.K. in a Changing Europe, a think tank that studies Britain's relations with the now 27-nation bloc. "It is unprecedented."

For now, little has changed. The two sides agreed on a transition period that keeps current rules and regulations in effect until Dec. 31. But that gives the U.K. government just 11 months to negotiate a comprehensive trade deal that could decide the prospects of British businesses for decades to come. The EU accounted for 54% of Britain's imports and 43% of its exports in 2016, according to the Office for National Statistics.

French President Emmanuel Macron published a letter on his Facebook page Saturday morning in English, addressed to his "dear British friends," that sought a conciliatory tone.

"Never has France or the French people—or, I think it is fair to say, any European people—been driven by a desire for revenge or punishment," he said.

Hours after Britain officially departed, a group of 17 members of the now diminished EU bloc sent a message that the union will remain strong despite losing one of its largest members.

six additional countries that officials said failed to meet minimum security standards, as part of an election-year push to further clamp down immigration.

Officials said immigrants from Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Eritrea, Nigeria, Sudan and Tanzania will face new restrictions in obtaining certain visas to come to the United States. But it is not a total travel ban, unlike President Donald Trump's earlier effort that generated outrage around the world for targeting Muslims.

Trump signed a proclamation on the restrictions Friday; they go into effect Feb. 21.

The announcement came as Trump tries to promote his crackdown on immigration, highlighting a signature issue

that motivated supporters in 2016 and hoping it has the same effect this November. The administration recently announced birth tourism restrictions, is touting the sharp decline in crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border and citing progress on building the border wall.

"It is fundamental to national security, and the height of common sense, that if a foreign nation wishes to receive the benefits of immigration and travel to the United States, it must satisfy basic security conditions outlined by America's law enforcement and intelligence professionals," the White House said in a statement.

Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Eritrea and Nigeria would have all immigrant visas suspended; those are applicants seeking to

live in the U.S. permanently. They include visas for people sponsored by family members or employers as well as the diversity visa program that made up to 55,000 visas available in the most recent lottery. In December, for example, 40,666 immigrant visas were granted worldwide.

Sudan and Tanzania will have diversity visas suspended. The State Department uses a computer drawing to select people from around the world for up to 55,000 diversity visas. Nigeria is already excluded from the lottery along with other countries that had more than 50,000 natives immigrate to the U.S. in the previous five years.

Nonimmigrant visas were not affected—awarded to

those traveling to the U.S. for a temporary stay. They include visas for tourists, those doing business or people seeking medical treatment. During December, for example, about 650,760 nonimmigrant visas were granted worldwide.

The new restrictions were swiftly met with criticism from immigrant advocates who slammed them as a new Muslim ban.

Sudan and Kyrgyzstan are majority-Muslim countries. Nigeria, the seventh-most populous nation in the world with more than 200 million people, is about evenly split between Christians and Muslims but has the world's fifth-largest population of Muslims, according to the Pew Research Center.

Guardian of Monarch butterfly grounds eulogized in Mexico

OCAMPO, Mexico (AP)—Hundreds of farmers and agricultural workers thronged the funeral of activist Homero Gómez González on Friday, and the homage to him was like a tribute to the monarch butterfly he so staunchly defended.

The butterflies' annual migration, threatened by logging, avocado farming and climate and environmental change, has also represented a ray of hope and income for the impoverished, pine-clad mountains of Michoacan state.

Nobody worked harder than Gómez González—whose body was found this week at the bottom of a holding pond with a head wound—to stop logging, reforest and bring tourists to the butterflies' wintering grounds.

In an area where crime, construction work and wood cutting provide some of the only sources of income, Gómez González provided a way out, ensuring income for the communal farmers who actually own the land in the

butterfly reserve.

"Thanks to him many of you had work, or more work—those who sell food in the reserve, those who sell their handicrafts, those who bring their horses to carry visitors into the reserve," Rev. Saul Saucedo said in the funeral homily.

It may sound like low-wage jobs, but it is that tenuous economy that keeps the pine and fir trees from being cut down and preserves the butterflies' marvelous migration from the United States and Canada each year.

It also feeds the family of communal farmer Raúl García González.

"When there's no work here, I go out and look for day labor jobs," said the stringy, weather-beaten García González.

Like many of the communal land owners, he fears Gómez González's death could add to the already bad reputation that drug cartel violence has given to the western state of Michoacan.



SWARM OF LOCUSTS

A farmer's son raises his arms as he is surrounded by desert locusts while trying to chase them away from his crops, in Katitika village, Kitui county, Kenya Friday, Jan. 24, 2020. Desert locusts have swarmed into Kenya by the hundreds of millions from Somalia and Ethiopia, countries that haven't seen such numbers in a quarter-century, destroying farmland and threatening an already vulnerable region. AP

Driver charged after 4 children killed on Sydney sidewalk

SYDNEY (AP)—An alleged drunk driver has been charged with multiple offenses including manslaughter after a SUV struck seven children on a Sydney sidewalk, killing four and seriously injuring a fifth.

The children were walking to buy ice cream when they were struck before 8 p.m. on Saturday by a vehicle driven by Samuel Davidson, police said.

Three of the children killed were siblings and their brother was taken to a hospital in serious conditions. The fourth child killed was the daughter of their father's cousin.

The father, Danny Abdallah, told reporters on Sunday he was heartbroken.

"I don't know what to say. I'm numb," Abdallah said. "All I want to say is: please, drivers, be careful."

"These kids were just walking innocently, enjoying each other's company ... and this morning I woke up and I have lost three kids," he added.

His children Antony, 13, Angelina, 12 and Sienna, 9, were killed. Their 10-year-old brother was in serious but stable condition.

Abdallah and his wife Leila had had six children. He said

his cousin had also lost an 11-year-old child in the tragedy, Veronique Sakr.

Another two girls, aged 10 and 13, suffered minor injuries, authorities said.

Davidson, the alleged driver, was arrested at the scene on Saturday and remained in custody.

The 20 charges against him, including four of manslaughter, were read in a Sydney court on Sunday. He did not appear in court and was refused bail until his next court appearance on April 2.

He has not entered any pleas. Manslaughter carries a

potential maximum sentence of 25 years in prison.

Davidson allegedly recorded a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.15% -- three-times the legal limit in Australia.

Acting Assistant Police Commissioner Jason Joyce said the driver remained at the scene until the police arrived and there were indications his 24-year-old male passenger tried to help some of the children. Neither the driver nor the passenger was injured.

Abdallah said all seven children injured were related and were staying at the Abdallah house.

Focus

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A scary new virus from China has spread around the world. So has rising anti-Chinese sentiment, calls for a full travel ban on Chinese visitors and indignities for Chinese and other Asians.

Restaurants in South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Vietnam have refused to accept Chinese customers. Indonesians marched near a hotel and called on Chinese guests there to leave. French and Australian newspapers face criticism for racist headlines. Chinese and other Asians in Europe, the United States, Asia and the Pacific complain of racism.

Two dozen countries outside of China have reported cases of the new coronavirus, which has killed more than 300 people and sickened thousands of others in China. Many countries have sent planes to the Chinese city of Wuhan to evacuate their nationals.

The anti-China sentiments come as a powerful Beijing bolsters its global influence, and China's rise has caused trade, political and diplomatic disputes with many countries.

But with rising fear of the mysterious disease has come a more acute anti-Chinese and, in some cases, anti-Asian backlash.

Here's a look from AP journalists from around the world:

SOUTH KOREA

South Korean websites have been flooded with comments calling on the government to block or expel Chinese and racist remarks about Chinese eating habits and hygiene. A popular Seoul seafood restaurant frequented by Chinese tourists posted a sign saying "No entry for Chinese" before taking it down Wednesday after an online backlash.

About 600,000 South Koreans have signed an online petition filed with the presidential Blue House calling for a temporary ban on Chinese visitors. Some conservative opposition lawmakers publicly back these steps, and about 30 people rallied near the Blue House on Wednesday demanding the government immediately ban Chinese tourists.

"Unconditional xenophobia against the Chinese is intensifying" in South Korea, the mass-circulation JoongAng Ilbo newspaper said in an editorial Thursday. "Infectious diseases are a matter of science, not an issue that can be resolved through an emotional outpouring."

THE UNITED STATES

After news broke that someone attending Arizona State University has the virus, Ari Deng, who is Chinese American, said



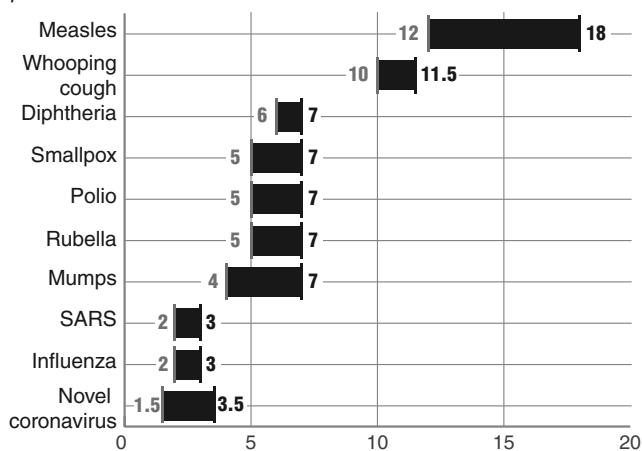
In this Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020, photo, South Korean protesters stage a rally calling for a ban on Chinese people entering South Korea near the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea.

FEARS OF NEW VIRUS trigger anti-China sentiment worldwide

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

How easily a virus spreads

The average number of people infected by a sick person is called the reproduction number for the virus in question. For the new coronavirus, that value is estimated to fall between 1.5 and 3.5, lower than for many common viruses. Ranges shown below assume populations that have not had vaccinations or other protective measures.



Graphic: Philadelphia Inquirer/TNS
Source: Binghamton University, University of Toronto, Imperial College London

Kong, where months of street protests against Beijing's influence have roiled the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Last week, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam suspended ferry and high-speed train services to the mainland and reduced flights between Hong Kong and Chinese cities.

Tenno Ramen, a Japanese noodle restaurant in Hong Kong, is refusing to serve mainland customers.

"We want to live longer. We want to safeguard local customers. Please excuse us," the

ern France carried a front-page headline warning of a "Yellow Alert," and later apologized amid national criticism.

"It's a virus that comes from a region in China. It could have come from North Africa, Europe or anywhere," said Soc Lam, a legal adviser to Chinese community groups in Paris. "People should not consider that just because we are Asian, we are more likely to spread the virus."

A Danish paper, Jyllands-Posten, published a cartoon that replaced the yellow stars of the Chinese flag with representations of the virus. The Chinese Embassy in Copenhagen called the cartoon "an insult to China" and demanded the newspaper apologize.

The German Der Spiegel magazine ran a headline that said "made in China" along with a photo of an individual in protective gear.

On Friday, a cafe near Rome's Trevi Fountain, a popular tourist site, posted a notice in its window saying "all people coming from China are not allowed access in this place," according to the Italian news agency ANSA. When AP journalists went there to check on it, the post was no longer in the window.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

More than 51,000 signatures have appeared on an online

petition demanding apologies from Australia's two biggest-circulation newspapers over their headlines.

The petition condemned Melbourne's Herald Sun headline Wednesday that read, "Chinese virus pandemonium," a misspelling that plays on China's native pandas, and Sydney's The Daily Telegraph headline on the same day that read, "China kids stay home."

Singaporean Kiwi Dollice Chua told the New Zealand Herald that when she went to an Auckland mall last week to buy a wedding card a woman gave her a dirty look and told her "You Asians are the ones who brought this virus." Chua has lived in New Zealand for 21 years. "It's racist and beyond rude," she said.

JAPAN

Many Japanese have taken to social media to call for a travel ban for the Chinese visitors amid worries they'll come to Japan for virus-related treatments. One tweet said, "Please ban Chinese tourists immediately," while another said, "I'm so worried that my child may catch the virus."

A candy store in Hakone, a hot springs town west of Tokyo, recently made headlines after it posted a note saying, "Chinese people's entry into the store is prohibited." On Wednesday, Menya Hareruya, a popular ramen chain in Sapporo on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, posted a sign saying "No entry for Chinese tourists."

Zhang Jiaqi, a Chinese student in Tokyo, said he has not faced any unpleasant response from his Japanese classmates and friends, but, he added, "I noticed that some people have turned around or watched me with angry looks on their face when I was talking to my friends in Chinese."

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Last weekend, several hundred residents in the Indonesian tourist city of Bukittinggi marched to the Novotel Hotel, where some 170 Chinese tourists were staying, to protest their entrance into Indonesia.

They blocked roads near the hotel to prevent the Chinese, who'd arrived a day earlier, from getting out of the hotel. Local authorities decided to send the visitors back to China later in the day.

More than 400,000 Malaysians have signed an online petition calling for a ban on Chinese travelers and urging the government to "save our family and our children."

A hotel in Danang, Vietnam, a popular beach destination, has been refusing to accept Chinese tourists.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin
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Something far deadlier than the Wuhan virus lurks near you

By LIZ SZABO

KAISER HEALTH NEWS/TNS

There's a deadly virus spreading from state to state. It preys on the most vulnerable, striking the sick and the old without mercy. In just the past few months, it has claimed the lives of at least 39 children.

The virus is influenza, and it poses a far greater threat to Americans than the coronavirus from China that has made headlines around the world.

"When we think about the relative danger of this new coronavirus and influenza, there's just no comparison," said Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine and health policy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "Coronavirus will be a blip on the horizon in comparison. The risk is trivial."

To be sure, the coronavirus outbreak, which originated last month in the Chinese city of Wuhan, should be taken seriously. The virus can cause pneumonia and is blamed for more than 800 illnesses and 26 deaths. British researchers estimate the virus has infected 4,000 people.

A second person in the U.S. who visited China has been diagnosed with the Wuhan virus, officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday. Public health workers are monitoring 63 additional patients from 22 states.

Influenza rarely gets this sort of attention, even though it kills more Americans each year than any other virus, said Dr. Peter Hotez, a professor of pediatrics, molecular virology and microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Influenza has already sickened at least 13 million Americans this winter, hospitalizing 120,000 and killing 6,600, according to the CDC. And flu season hasn't even peaked. In a bad year, the flu kills up to 61,000 Americans.

Worldwide, the flu causes up to 5 million cases of severe illness worldwide and kills up to 650,000 people every year, according to the World Health Organization.

And yet, Americans aren't particularly concerned.

Less than half of adults got a flu shot last season, according to the CDC. Even among children, who can be especially vulnerable to respiratory illnesses, only 62% received the vaccine.

If Americans aren't afraid of the flu, perhaps that's because they are inured to yearly warnings. For them, the flu is old news. Yet viruses named after foreign places—such as Ebola, Zika and Wuhan—inspire terror.

"Familiarity breeds indifference," Schaffner said. "Because it's new, it's mysterious and comes from an exotic place, the coronavirus creates anxiety."

Some doctors joke that the flu needs to be rebranded.

"We should rename influenza; call it XZ-47 virus, or something scarier," said Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Measles in the Democratic Republic of Congo has killed 5,000 people in the past year—more than twice as many as Ebola. Yet UNICEF officials have

noted that the measles, which many Americans no longer fear, has gotten little attention. Nearly all the measles victims were children under 5.

Some people may worry less about the flu because there's a vaccine, whose protection has ranged from 19% to 60% in recent years. Simply having the choice about whether or not to receive a flu shot can give people an illusion of control, Schaffner said.

But people often feel powerless to fight novel viruses. The fact that an airplane passenger spread SARS to other passengers and flight crew made people feel especially vulnerable.

Because the Wuhan virus is new, humans have no antibodies against it. Doctors haven't had time to develop treatments or vaccines.

The big question, so far unknown, is just how easily the virus is transmitted from an infected person to others. The WHO this week opted not to declare the Wuhan outbreak an international health emergency. But officials warn the outbreak hasn't peaked. Each patient with the new

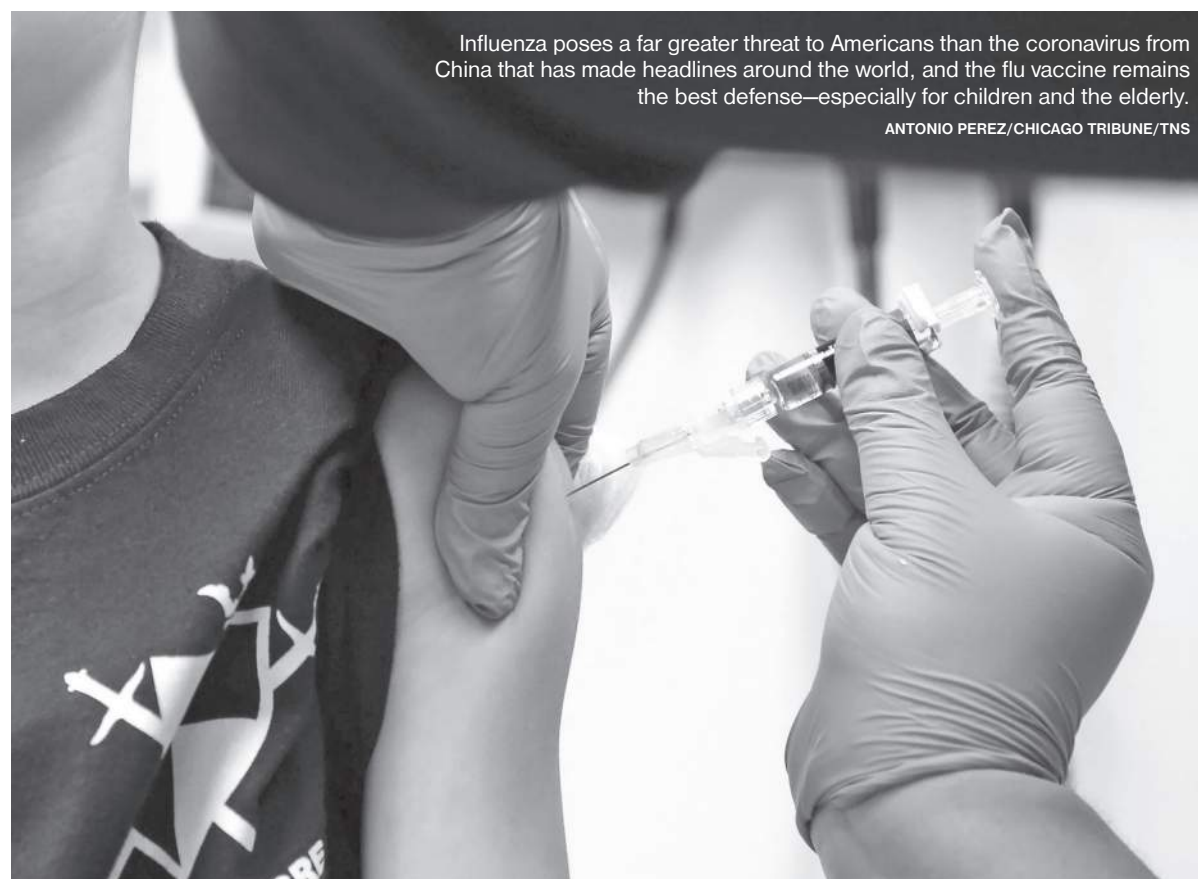
coronavirus appears to be infecting about two other people.

By comparison, patients with SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, spread the infection to an average of two to four others. Each patient with measles—one of the most contagious viruses known to science—infected 12 to 18 unvaccinated people.

Health officials worry that the new coronavirus could resemble SARS—which appeared suddenly in China in 2002 and spread to 26 countries, sickening 8,000 people and killing 774, according to the WHO.

The U.S. dodged a bullet with SARS, Schaffner said. Only eight Americans became infected, and none died, according to the CDC. Yet SARS caused a global panic, leading people to shutter hotels, cancel flights and close businesses.

Kaiser Health News (KHN) is a national health policy news service. It is an editorially independent program of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.



Influenza poses a far greater threat to Americans than the coronavirus from China that has made headlines around the world, and the flu vaccine remains the best defense—especially for children and the elderly.

ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS



DZMITRY SKAZAU/REAMSTIME/TNS

Study reveals why more than a week of keto may not be beneficial

By KIERSTEN WILLIS

THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/TNS

If the start of the new year led you to go on the ketogenic diet in an effort to lose weight, a new study suggests you may have been on it a little too long.

Researchers at Yale University have conducted a mice study to review the effects of the keto diet. They discovered that beyond a week, the benefits begin to cease.

The study was recently published in *Nature Metabolism* and results indicate that over a limited time period, consuming a high-fat, low-carb diet can possibly offer health benefits to humans, Yale News reported. They include lowering the risk of diabetes and inflammation. The diet's positive effects are related to immune cells called gamma delta

T-cells, immune cells that protect the tissue and lower the risk of diabetes and inflammation. However, the same cells are also tied to negative effects of keto.

Vishwa Deep Dixit, Ph.D., lead author of the study who is a professor of comparative medicine and immunology at the Yale School of Medicine, said keto tricks the body into burning fat. The body acts as if it's in starvation mode when the low consumption of carbohydrates causes glucose levels to drop. Despite the body not actually being in starvation mode, it begins burning fat instead of carbohydrates. That leads to the release of ketone bodies, which are an alternative source of fuel. As ketone bodies burn in the body, gamma delta T-cells expand throughout.

Dixit said this process improves

metabolism and reduces diabetes risk and inflammation. He said mice showed decreased blood sugar levels and inflammation after a week on keto.

However, when the body acts as if it's in starvation mode, researchers found fat gets stored in the body at the same time that fat breakdown occurs. As mice continue the high-fat diet, Dixit said they start to store more fat than they can burn and obesity and diabetes begins to develop.

"They lose the protective gamma delta T-cells in the fat," Dixit said.

"Our findings highlight the interplay between metabolism and the immune system, and how it coordinates maintenance of healthy tissue function," said comparative medicine postdoctoral fellow Emily Goldberg, who discovered that the

keto diet expands gamma-delta T cells in mice.

Despite the findings of the mice trial, however, Dixit said long-term human clinical trials are needed.

"Before such a diet can be prescribed, a large clinical trial in controlled conditions is necessary to understand the mechanism behind metabolic and immunological benefits or any potential harm to individuals who are overweight and pre-diabetic," Dixit said.

The results come after Dr. Donald Hensrud of the Mayo Clinic voiced opposition to the diet. Hensrud, author of "The Mayo Clinic Diet Book," said the keto is not the magic formula people believe it is.

"People want to believe," he said. "They want an easy way out. They want the magic panacea."

Researchers at Yale University have discovered that, beyond a week, the benefits of the ketogenic diet begin to cease.

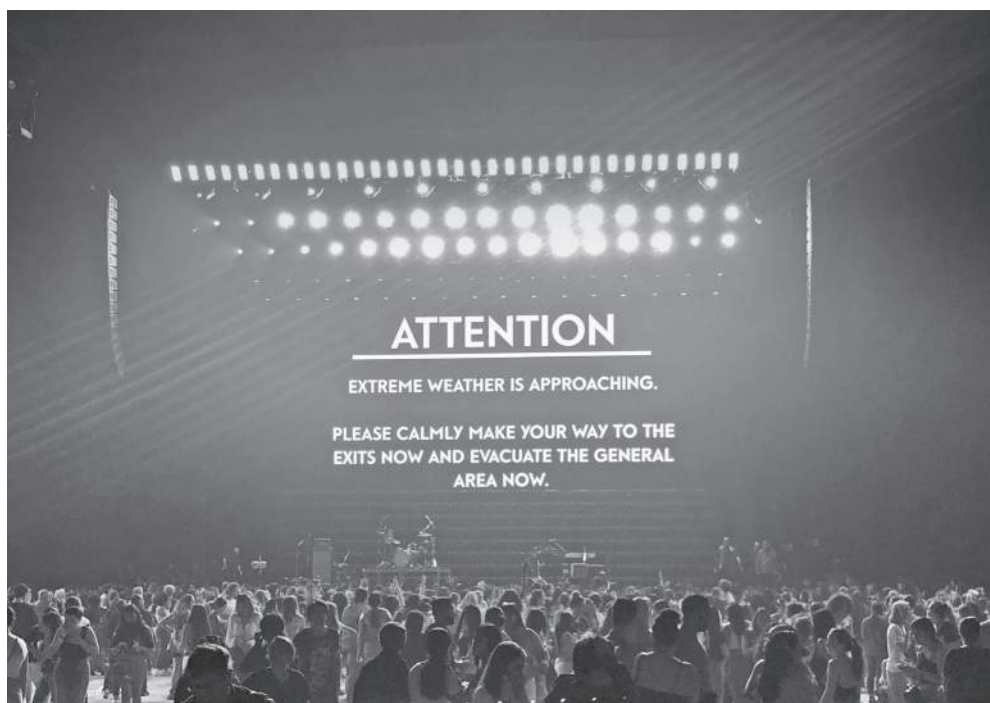
Life & Style

Torrential rains overshadow Post Malone pre-Super Bowl show

MIAMI (AP)—Torrential rains in Miami overshadowed rapper Post Malone's pre-Super Bowl show, ultimately shutting down the red carpet and delaying his set until the early morning hours of Saturday. Nearby, the weather forced Harry Styles to cancel his show.

Friday night's Bootsy Belows show promised to be a star-studded event as the Los Angeles-area club's pop-up took over a picturesque island in Miami, with VIP guests slated to arrive by yacht. But relentless rains caused multiple delays and confusion.

Several DJs, including Denver Broncos player Von Miller, entertained the crowd for hours until actor-comedian Kevin Hart, who was supposed to host, awkwardly came onstage after 2 a.m. Hart was supposed to arrive by water, but all boats slated to arrive at the event were cancelled after the National Weather Service posted a severe storm watch



A message appears on stage warning concertgoers of extreme weather at the Pepsi Zero Sugar Super Bowl Party at Meridian on Island Gardens in Miami on Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, in Miami, Fla.

AP

until 3 a.m.

When Hart finally introduced Post Malone—but the rapper didn't appear.

"Make some noise for my

guy Mr. ... what, well that's gonna be a tough pickle," Hart said to someone offstage, before shouting, "I love you," to the audience and walking off.

The DJ took over again and attempted to pump up the crowd until the show's headline finally took the stage about 15 minutes later at 2:30

a.m. Post Malone opened with his hit "Wow." before abruptly stopping to apologize profusely for the weather.

"I just want to say thank you to everyone who walked through a (expletive) foot of water just to come hang out tonight," he said.

Nearby, Harry Styles' show was evacuated because of severe conditions. Styles said he was disappointed, tweeting that "the fire department would not let us do the show under any circumstances. Please stay safe."

During Post Malone's 30-minute set, he performed hits including "Better Now"

and later brought Ty Dolla \$ign onstage to sing "Psycho"—a song he said he wrote about a shiny watch.

At various points during the set, the Grammy-nominated artist stopped singing, instead letting his vocals on the background tracks play as he walked around the stage.

"I'm drunk right now so I don't have much to say," said the rapper, who stars in a new Super Bowl ad for Bud Light.

He dismissed his monster hit "Sunflower," telling the audience, "Thank you for listening to these (expletive) songs, as well. It means a lot to me."

For 'Fast and Furious' cast, Walker's memory remains strong

MIAMI (AP)—Vin Diesel says it's the spirit of Paul Walker that motivates him to continue starring in the "Fast and Furious" saga.

Diesel and the cast spoke of the memory of their late screen partner at a special event surrounding the upcoming release of the franchise's ninth chapter, "F9: Fast and Furious 9."

The recent death of Kobe Bryant reminded Diesel of the loss of his friend.

"I can't make a 'Fast' without Pablo in my thoughts, in my everyday activity, in my approach to every scene," Diesel said, invoking his affectionate nickname for Walker. "His spirit must live in this saga, because his spirit, in so

many ways, is what drives me to continue the saga."

The film took over a park in Miami for "The Road to F9 Concert & Trailer Debut Event" with a concert starring Cardi B, Wiz Khalifa, Charlie Puth, and others.

The crowd included Diesel's family and Walker's daughter, Meadow. Fans got their first look at the film, which includes larger-than-life stunts involving an assortment of cars racing, crashing and even flying through the air.

Ludacris, the rapper who has starred as Tej Parker in the franchise, opened the show, and before performing he spoke of how the "Fast and Furious" family honors Walker.

"We start off with prayers.

We always talk about family and how important family is, and this is a whole family, this entire cast. I'm talking about on and off screen. I think that's what makes our chemistry so well. And it's always in remembrance and in motivation of how we're doing our duty and honoring Paul Walker, and now even Kobe Bryant, of making sure that we do everything in our power to make the best movie possible, so that it resonates with everyone—the love and the family it instills," Ludacris said.

Before performing their song, "See You Again," Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth spoke about what it meant to create music that paid tribute to Walker after his death in a

2013 car crash.

"A lot of people deal with losses in different ways, and this was an opportunity to be able to not only reflect on it, but to try to help people get through it. And music can make you feel better. You can express yourself," Khalifa said. "Sometimes you might not necessarily cry when something happens, but you might hear a song and it might bring that emotion out of you. And that's how you kind of like cleanse, and do better later, you know what I'm saying? So, to be able to have the song this powerful and the subject matter be as powerful as it is, it's a real blessing."

Puth says he's humbled by the power of the song.

Tyler Perry inspires emerging podcaster to 'build her own'

ATLANTA (AP)—When Tyler Perry talks, people listen and Sheletta Brundidge was one of those hanging on to every word.

Perry told the audience at the 2019 BET Awards that "while you're fighting for a seat at the table, I'll be down in Atlanta building my own." Brundidge, a producer at WCCO Radio in Minneapolis and host of the Two Haute Mamas podcast, was listening.

When Perry—who received the Ultimate Icon Award that night—spoke, Brundidge said she "felt that in my toenails," the Atlanta Journal-Constitu-

tion reported.

"He said to build our own table. So I started the site," she wrote in a Twitter message. "Then he said help somebody cross. So I went and grabbed a few folks and brought them over with me."

It was in Atlanta, during the She Podcasts conference this past October, where Brundidge learned to put it all together.

The result is the podcast platform SHEletta Makes Me Laugh. Among the podcasts are "The Teen Whisperer," with Minneapolis-based counselor Jason Clopton; "J.E.T. Setting Divas," with globe-

trotting travelers Jeanette, Evette and Tina; and "Mommy & Me," which Brundidge does with her 13-year-old son, Andrew.

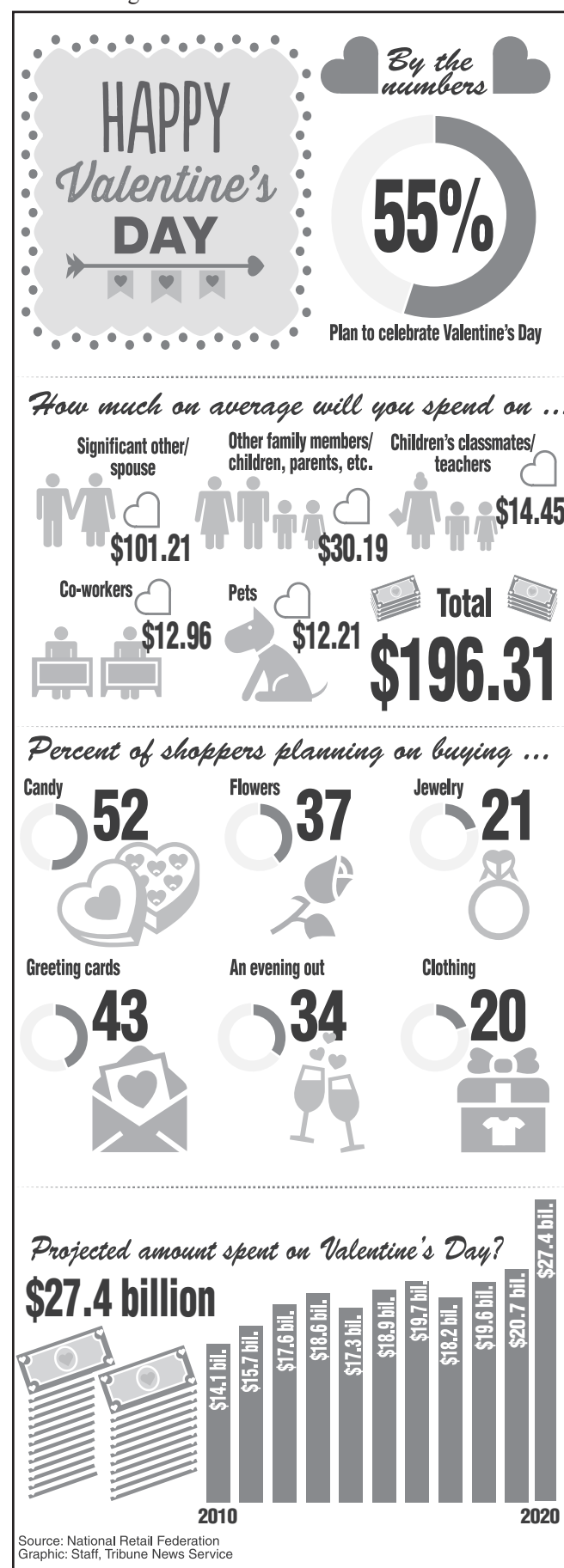
"We are perfect foils," Brundidge said of her son. "But he comes up with his own topics. By the time we have our pre-show meeting, he already has 10 ideas, and I pick the final two. He's a natural."

Why did Andrew get involved?

"I watch the news every morning and I only see a positive thing about a young black man about once a week. I wanted to help shine the spot-

light on some of them and help them be known for what they're doing," he told KARE-TV in Minneapolis.

Andrew was one of those positive stories in December. When a fire destroyed a building that shelters the homeless in downtown Minneapolis, Andrew and brother Brandon decided to donate their Christmas presents to the kids who lost what little they had. He gave his autographed Kyrie Irving basketball sneakers to one boy "to help inspire him and help him keep pushing through tough times," Andrew said.



CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Actor and director Elizabeth Banks was honored Friday as Woman of the Year by Harvard University's famed Hasty Pudding theater troupe with a parade and a celebratory roast.

The "Hunger Games" star rolled through Harvard Square in the back of a black convertible as students dressed in drag and other elaborate costumes danced through the streets of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

At the roast, troupe members cracked jokes about last year's reboot of "Charlie's Angels," which Banks produced, wrote, directed and appeared in, as well as her roles in the popular "Hunger Games" and "Pitch Perfect" franchises.

Banks was then bestowed the award of the evening—a golden pudding pot—and caught a preview of the troupe's latest show, "Mean Ghouls."

"This has been a very unique experience," Banks said after being handed her

award onstage. "Thanks for this exceedingly fun retrospective of my career."

She also threw some friendly barbs back at the troupe, which has made strides in recent years to better represent women in its productions.

Last year was the first in which the troupe, considered the nation's oldest collegiate theatrical organization, allowed women in the cast. Organizers said this year's performance also boasts a majority female cast, a female writer and female producers.

"Hasty Pudding is one of those truly progressive institutions," Banks said. "You know it was founded, and then a mere 175 years later let ladies into the party."

Banks, who grew up in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, said after the roast that the day had been a family affair, with her father, cousins and other family in Massachusetts coming out.

Her husband, in particular, enjoyed seeing her get roasted for a change after long

Elizabeth Banks

honored with parade, roast at Harvard



AP Actor and director Elizabeth Banks plays football against an actor in a dragon costume as she is honored as the 2020 Woman of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, in Cambridge, Mass.

being the target of her jokes, she said. "It's been a really lovely

day," Banks said.

The University of Pennsylvania graduate also reminisced

about her first paid acting gig, which was as a reenactor on the true crime show "Amer-

Adam Sandler signs deal with Netflix to make 4 more films

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Expect more Adam Sandler in your Netflix feed.



Sandler

The streaming giant announced Friday that Sandler and his Happy Madison Productions have reached a new deal with Netflix to make four more films. He's had five films with the studio along with the stand-up special "Adam Sandler: 100% Fresh."

Netflix leader Ted Sarandos said the company is excited to extend its partnership with Sandler, because audiences "love his stories

and his humor." The company said his 2019 comedy "Murder Mystery" starring him and Jennifer Aniston was the most popular film on Netflix in the U.S. last year and one of the most popular in eight other countries.

Sandler's latest film "Uncut Gems," which was released in theaters last year to critical acclaim, will premiere on Netflix in May. Later this year, the actor will star in "Hubie Halloween" with Kevin James, Julie Bowen and Maya Rudolph.

50 Cent, DJ Khaled join Fat Joe at pre-Super Bowl concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Fat Joe brought New York hip-hop to Miami for an energetic pre-Super Bowl concert a day ahead of the big game.

The Bronx rapper was joined by fellow New Yorkers 50 Cent and Remy Ma for the Pepsi Super Splash Pool Party on Saturday at Cleveland

South Beach.

Joe performed a number of hits, including the Grammy-nominated smashes "What's Luv?," "Lean Back" and "All the Way Up." Ma surprised the audience, rapping on the latter two songs, while her rapper-husband, Papoose—, freestyled onstage, earning

cheers from the crowd.

50 Cent, who is from Queens, got the loudest applause from the hyped crowd when he performed "What Up Gangsta" and his debut hit, "In Da Club."

Onstage Fat Joe asked 50 multiple times, "Who shot Ghost?," referring to the lead

character from the rap entrepreneur's hit series on Starz, "Power."

Other performers included Flo Rida and DJ Khaled, who has headlined multiple pre-Super Bowl concerts this week and did his signature dance to his hit "Wild Thoughts" alongside Joe.

Terry Crews says sorry to Gabrielle Union for his remarks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Terry Crews apologized for his comments about Gabrielle Union's claims of mistreatment on "America's Got Talent," saying he didn't mean to "invalidate" her experience and regrets letting down other black women.

On the "Today" show last

week, Crews said that Union's allegations of racism on the production didn't reflect his experience as the NBC talent show's host. Union was dropped as a judge on the series after one season.

In a series of posts Friday on his Twitter account, Crews recounted telling Kevin Hart

that he had to "acknowledge the pain of other people."

"Right now I have to do the same thing. I want to apologize for the comments I made. I realize there are a lot of Black women hurt and let down by what I said and also by what I didn't say," Crews wrote.

In a tweet addressed directly to Union, he said it was "never my intention to invalidate your experience—but that is what I did. I apologize."

He failed to offer support to Union out of his desire to be "professionally neutral as your co-worker," Crews wrote.

Grandson living rent-free pushes grandparents' buttons

DEAR ABBY: Our 24-year-old grandson "Raffy," a college grad from a respected technical institution, couldn't find a job for a year after graduation. He has been living with us for more than six months without paying rent because we wanted to help him get on his feet. Currently, his only responsibility is helping somewhat after dinner. He now has a good job.

I should mention that Raffy tends to be narcissistic. He frequently wears his baseball hat to meals, even though I have asked him not to. He can also be difficult to deal with, attacking me when there's a difference of opinion or if he's angry about something.

We live in a three-bedroom condo. What rules are legitimate for me to require? Can I ask him to keep his room straight and take his hat off at meals or when going out for dinner? How much room and board should we ask for?

We have frequent guests—family, our friends, his friends—because we live close to the beach in Florida. Space gets to be a big issue, and he refuses to allow visiting cousins to sleep in his room, even though there are two double beds. I welcome your input, Abby.

OUT OF CONTROL IN FLORIDA

DEAR OUT OF CONTROL: You seem to have forgot-

ten that the condo Raffy lives in belongs to you. Because it is your home, and he has been living rent-free, you should be making the rules. It's time to sit him down and tell him together that if he wants to continue living there, he will:

1. Keep his room neat at all times.
2. Remove his hat during the meals he shares with you.
3. Allow the visiting cousins to use the extra bed in "his" room—which is really your guest room.
4. I hesitate to suggest you ask him for money because if you turn the arrangement into a business deal, you may lose leverage. But I do think you should set a deadline for your gainfully employed (but difficult) grandson to leave. With the money he has been socking away on rent, he should be able to accumulate enough to afford a place of his own.

DEAR ABBY: As kids, we were taught not to kiss on the mouth (unless a spouse or romantic partner). We never kissed our children on the mouth and felt disgusted when we witnessed it.

We see it happen all the time now, especially on TV. It never happened in the '50s and '60s. Is my family wrong?

HOLDING BACK IN HAMILTON, OHIO

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR HOLDING BACK: It's a matter of personal preference and upbringing. Giving a family member a peck on the lips is neither right nor wrong, and I have certainly never considered a parent or sibling showing affection in this way to be shocking or disgusting. Readers, what do you think?

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

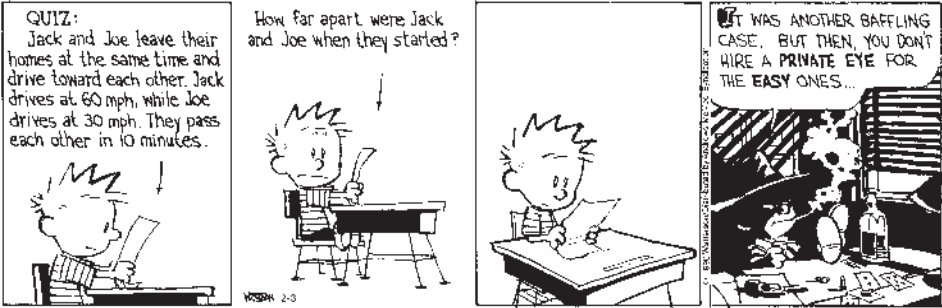
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

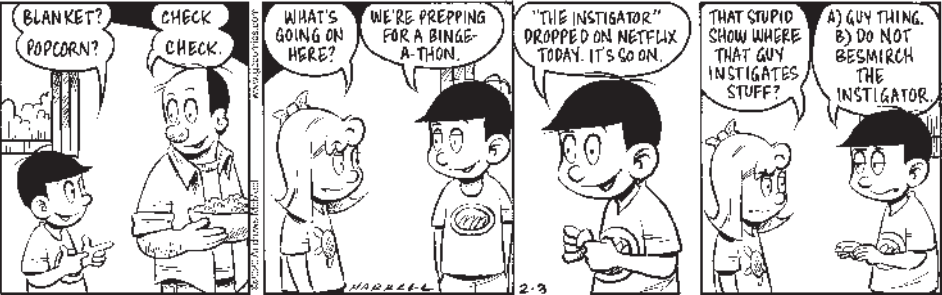


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Georgia or Cal
- 5 Satchel
- 8 Story
- 12 Lotion
- 14 Unsigned (Abbr.)
- 15 Forrest Gump
- 16 —
- 17 Secreted
- 18 Conical homes
- 20 Skiers' mecca
- 23 Ale
- 24 Humdrum
- 25 Noise
- 28 Enervate
- 29 Shipboard
- 30 Chit
- 32 Moves out
- 34 Inky stain
- 35 Melodies
- 36 Concert venue

DOWN

- 37 Nap
- 40 Language
- 41 Help a
- 42 Polite
- 47 Occupy
- 48 Seriously
- 49 Being, to
- 50 "Mayday!"
- 51 Electron-

3 URL suffix

4 Sneaky laugh

5 Flex than

6 Noah's craft

7 Fuel con- tainers

8 Asian capital

9 Diarist Frank

10 Mine find

11 Seth's son

13 Futile legend

19 BPOE Arthur

20 Sit-up targets

21 Pole, e.g.

22 Dad

23 Fragrant trees

25 Rates higher

26 Egyptian river

27 Thug

29 Lure

31 Tony- winner

33 Rook

34 Bakery loaves

36 Tennis

37 Ump's call

38 Heron's cousin

39 Congers in Paris

40 Summers

43 Yoko from Tokyo

44 Prefix with natal

45 Docu- mentarian

46 CIA Burns operative

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 02/03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15								16			
			17				18	19			
20	21	22				23					
24				25				26	27		
28				29					30	31	
	32		33					34			
				35				36			
37	38	39					40				
41					42	43			44	45	46
47					48						
49					50				51		

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Isla Fisher, 44; Nathan Lane, 64; Morgan Fairchild, 70; Blythe Danner, 77.

Happy Birthday: Prepare to make things happen this year. Your strength, courage and desire to make a difference will inspire others to pitch in and help. Speak up, be direct and leave nothing to the imagination. It's time to take over and make your dreams come true and your life and your surroundings the best possible. Strive to make your mark. Your numbers are 7, 13, 20, 23, 32, 43, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Say what you think, and ask for what you want. Your quick-witted banter will give you the edge over any competition you face. Business trips, discussions with friends or relatives, or gathering information will lead to improvement. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Focus on personal enhancement, or do something that will make you feel good about who you are and what you contribute. Invest more time in yourself, your future and the relationships that contribute to your life and your happiness. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be a participant. Aim to have fun, but not at the expense of hurting someone's feelings. Flirting will lead to a confrontation with someone you love as well as harm your reputation. Listen to the advice someone close offers. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get the facts, find out the truth and proceed with caution. If you overreact or trust someone you shouldn't, it will hurt your relationship

with someone you love. Spending time with someone you love should be your priority. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make a statement. Let everyone see what you are capable of doing. You will be able to make things happen if you stick to what you do best. Invest in yourself, hone your skills and focus on your accomplishments. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Rely on yourself, and avoid disappointment. Working alone will eliminate being held back by someone who cannot keep up or doesn't agree with your ideas or plans. Protect your reputation, and stick to what you know and do best. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Associate with people who can broaden your scope and help connect you to like-minded people. Give a great deal of thought to changing your life or your direction. Consider what's most important to you, and make your move. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Taking care of someone's business will lead to personal changes you didn't expect. Go through personal papers, make updates where necessary and get on with your life. Make adjustments to your living space that will free up valuable time. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful who you share personal information with, or you will end up in a vulnerable position. Take a wait-and-see approach when dealing with others. Work on your own for the best results. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Evaluate your current lifestyle, and reassess your health and overall well-being. Set up a routine that includes a proper diet, plenty of rest and eating nutritious foods, and you will gain the strength you need to conquer your goals. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Attend an event that interests you, and it will get you thinking about someone or something you want to incorporate into your everyday routine. Keeping busy will help you ward off stress and anxiety. Don't get angry; get moving. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Plan your actions, and make your move. Refrain from pushing your beliefs on others. Adjustments at home may not be to your liking initially, but if you are patient, everything will fall into place. Offer peace and love, not discord and chaos. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are curious, smart and versatile. You are changeable and innovative.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		3		1			2	
9		4	6			5		
	2			3	5		6	9
		5					4	
6		2		4		3		8
	1					7		
3	5		7	9			8	
		1			3	9		6
	9			6		2		

Difficulty Level ★ 2/03

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GOING PAPERLESS Solution: 10 letters

A T A D E C I F F O S X A F L
S L F A S T I Y D I T E O E
E U E E B N L E V A S S G R L
X Y E R E E P S Q O L O A M B
A R R I T U L U C L W O R K A
T L L A K N A I I N D U O L C
P C A C R L E B B W C P T E I
C H A T I B B M R O I D A S C N
O B O T I A I K N D M A O N O
M T Y T N G C L I O B T E A R
P I E K O O I C G E R E D R T
U D R L T N C D O R G I I U C
T E B S E M A I L U E A V S E
E R A W T F O S C A N E M N L
R C Y G O L O N H C E T N I E

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Account, Alert, Backup, Bank, Bills, Blog, Cable, Client, Cloud, Computer, Contact, Cost, Credit, Data, Digital, Download, Electronic, Email, Environment, Fast, Fax, File, Form, Green, Image, Insurance, Library, Login, Logo, Mobile, Office, Online, Photo, Quality, Save, Scan, Software, Stock, Storage, Taxes, Technology, Tidy, Trees, Update, Video, Work

Last Friday's Answer: University

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

James has a triple-double, Lakers throttle Kings, 129-113



SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The Lakers say they are fully prepared for the steady stream of tributes for Kobe Bryant that they will surely see the rest of the season.

LeBron James welcomes it, calling it a therapeutic and needed part of the Lakers' healing process.

James had another triple-double despite an off-night shooting. Anthony Davis scored 21 points and Los Angeles thumped the Sacramento Kings 129-113 on Saturday, its first win since Bryant's death.

"It's never going to feel normal. It's never going to feel the same," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "But we got our first win since this happened. There's going to be a lot of important steps for us along the way and this was definitely one."

James had 15 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds while helping Los Angeles end a two-game skid. James shot 6 of 15 and missed three of four 3-pointers but made up for it with his 11th triple-double of the season and the 92nd of his career.

The Lakers were playing the second half of a back-to-back, one night after an emotional 127-119 loss to Portland at Staples Center in their first game since Sunday's helicopter crash that killed Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven others.

During the first timeout less than four minutes into the game, a video of both Bryant and Gianna playing basketball was shown on the giant scoreboard as members of both the Lakers and Kings watched. The numbers 8 and 24 flashed on the court as Bryant's voice echoed through the building.

Tributes continued to play throughout the game as fans—many wearing Bryant's jerseys—repeatedly chanted his name.

"We're prepared for it. We understand it and we hope it happens every night just because of the legacy that he's left behind," James said. "We're prepared for it as a team, as an organization and we're going to continue to get through it. It's our obligation just to go out and play the game, have that winning mentality because that's what he would want."

A memorial wall with pictures of Bryant and Gianna was set up outside one of the main entrances to Golden 1 Center. Fans scrawled messages on the wall and left flowers.

Inside, the Lakers did their best to move forward following the tragedy that left the entire organization reeling.

They scored 44 points in the first quarter, made 14 3s and dished out 26 assists be-



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, drives against Sacramento Kings forward Harrison Barnes during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020.

New York last won at Indiana 109-103 on Jan. 23, 2017.

Domantas Sabonis had 25 points and eight rebounds. Myles Turner had 12 points and six rebounds after missing the last two games with an illness, and Jeremy Lamb added nine points for the Pacers (31-18), who have lost two of three games.

Mavericks 123, Hawks 100

In Dallas, Dallas coach Rick Carlisle described the first game without top scores Luka Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis as a great challenge.

The rest of the Mavericks accepted that challenge.

Jalen Brunson scored 27 points in his ninth start of the season, Dorian Finney-Smith matched a career high with 22 points and Maxi Kleber added 18 as Dallas beat the Atlanta Hawks 123-100 in a game between teams with depleted rosters.

Doncic sprained his right ankle in Thursday's practice and isn't expected back until Feb. 10 at the earliest. Porzingis sat out the second of a back-to-back while recovering from a left knee injury. Carlisle said sitting Porzingis was decided before the Mavericks played on Friday night at Houston, where Porzingis scored a season-high 35 points in 36 minutes.

Brunson scored 19 points in the first half, nearly surpassing his previous season high of 21. He scored 13 in the second quarter as the Mavericks took control.

Spurs 113, Hornets 90

In San Antonio, San Antonio Spurs are hitting the road as inconsistent as ever. At least they're starting this nearly month-long trip on an upswing.

DeMar DeRozan had 24 points and the Spurs overcame a 19-point deficit to beat the Charlotte Hornets 114-90 Saturday night in their final home game for 3 1/2 weeks.

"We competed in the second half," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "We didn't compete in the first half."

The Spurs held the Hornets to 27 points in the second half and outscored them by 37.

Miles Bridges had 25 points for Charlotte, which has lost 10 of 11.

Jakob Poeltl added 17 points and seven rebounds in 18 minutes for the Spurs.

fore halftime, dominating the Kings on both ends while building an 81-64 lead.

Avery Bradley added 19 points, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 15 and Rajon Rondo had 13 points and eight assists for Los Angeles.

Heat 102, Magic 89

In Orlando, Fla., Miami got 24 points from Jimmy Butler and a big boost from rookie Tyler Herro on Saturday night. But it was a big game from center Meyers Leonard that put the Heat over the top in a 102-89 victory over the Orlando Magic.

Herro came off the bench with six 3-pointers and 23 points. Herro and center Myles Leonard combined for 10-of-19 shooting from 3-point range to help the Heat beat Orlando for the second time this week and stretch their lead in the Southeast Division to 12 1/2 games.

The 7-foot Leonard took 14 shots in 29 minutes.

Aaron Gordon scored 24 for the Magic, who lost their fifth straight. Nikola Vucevic added 21 points and nine rebounds.

Wizards 113, Nets 107

In Washington, Kyrie Irving limped off the court after hurting his right knee, his latest injury coming just 24 hours after his best performance of the season.

A night after scoring a season-high 54 points, Irving was forced to leave in the fourth

quarter of the Brooklyn Nets' 113-107 loss to the Washington Wizards on Saturday.

Irving, who missed nearly two months with a shoulder injury earlier in his first season with the Nets, has a history of injuries to his left knee. This mishap occurred with 5:31 remaining in the fourth quarter as he and Washington's Bradley Beal got tangled up on a held ball.

Clippers 118, Timberwolves 106

In Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Clippers have their entire roster healthy for the first time this season and it showed against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Led by Kawhi Leonard's 31 points, the Clippers had five other players in double figures in a 118-106 victory Saturday. Leonard posted his ninth straight game with at least 30 points, the longest such streak in the NBA this season.

Karl-Anthony Towns countered with 32 points and 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves, his fourth consecutive game with 30 or more points, but it wasn't enough to keep Minnesota from losing its 11th in a row, matching the team's skid from December.

Celtics 116, 76ers 95

In Boston, when he didn't make the All-Star Game, Jaylen Brown decided he'll use the break to rest up for what he hopes will be a long post-

season run.

"Ain't no reason to cry over spilled milk," he said Saturday night after scoring 32 points in a 116-95 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers. "Playoffs is on my mind. That's the stage you want to be on. I think some people have got it backwards."

Brown added nine rebounds, and Jayson Tatum—who was voted as a reserve in the All-Star Game in Chicago on Feb. 16—scored nine of his 25 points in a 99-second span that gave Boston the lead for good. Playing without injured point guard Kemba Walker, the Celtics won for the sixth time in seven games and avoided a season sweep by the 76ers.

Warriors 131, Cleveland 112

In Cleveland, the Golden State Warriors have the worst record in the NBA, but Steve Kerr hasn't lost his sense of humor.

The Warriors coach grew accustomed to dealing with a media throng when Golden State played NBA Finals games in Cleveland every season from 2015-18.

Kerr couldn't resist making a joke when he saw the number of reporters jammed into a small interview room Saturday night before a 131-112 victory over the Cavaliers.

"Still here?" he said with a laugh. "LeBron's not walking through that door. Kevin Durant's not walking through that door. Why is

everybody here?"

Trail Blazers 124, Jazz 107

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard says the secret to his hot streak is sticking to what works.

Lillard had 51 points, including nine 3-pointers, and 12 assists as the Portland Trail Blazers handed the Utah Jazz their season-high fourth straight loss with a 124-107 victory Saturday night.

It was Lillard's NBA-record sixth straight game with at least six 3-pointers.

For Lillard, that means a nightly 25-minute shooting workout, making 100 free throws, 15 minutes of ball-handling drills. Cold tubs in the morning. Eating and sleeping right.

Knicks 92, Pacers 85

In Indianapolis, Marcus Morris provided the boost down the stretch that New York needed to finish.

Morris scored 12 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, including 10 of the Knicks' final 12, in a 92-85 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Saturday night.

Julius Randle had 16 points and a season-best 18 rebounds, and Taj Gibson added 10 points and seven rebounds to lead the Knicks (14-36). They snapped a two-game skid and won in the series after losing seven straight, including four losses on the road.

Kenin tops Muguruza at Australian Open for 1st major

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—This, essentially, was where Sofia Kenin was going to win or lose the Australian Open final: She was down love-40 while serving at 2-all in the third set against two-time major champion Garbiñe Muguruza.

Kenin sensed this was the moment that would matter. Up in the stands of Rod Laver Arena, so did her father, Alex, who's also her coach.

"I knew I had to take my chance," Kenin said. "I had to be brave."

Sure was. The 21-year-old American won the next five points, each with a winner -- one an ace, the others clean groundstrokes to cap exchanges of 11 shots or more -- and was on her way to becoming a Grand Slam champion.

Demonstrative as can be -- whether spiking a ball, dropping her red-white-and-blue racket or slapping her thigh -- and at her best when necessary, the 14th-seeded Kenin won the first major final of her career Saturday by coming back to beat a fading Muguruza 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 at Melbourne Park.

"That's the game I feel, like, changed things. I had to play some (of my) best tennis. I did," Kenin said. "After that, I was on fire. I was ready to take the beautiful trophy."

Kenin was so magnificent when it mattered the most, saving 10 of 12 break points she faced, while converting 5 of 6 that she earned.

"I'm not very happy about my performance. ... At the important moments, I didn't find my shots," Muguruza said. "I think she found her shots. I didn't."

Muguruza was visited by a trainer after the second set and her movement wasn't ideal down the stretch. Nor was her serving: She double-faulted eight times, including three in the last game, one on championship point.

"A little bit lack of energy," Muguruza said.

For quite some time, Kenin was overlooked and underap-



Sofia Kenin of the U.S. kisses the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup after defeating Spain's Garbiñe Muguruza in the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020.

preciated, drawing much less attention than other young tennis players from the U.S., such as 15-year-old Coco Gauff-- Kenin beat her in the fourth round this week--and 18-year-old Amanda Anisimova.

Maybe it was because Kenin is only 5-foot-7 (1.70 meters). Maybe it was because she went into last season with this resume: ranked outside the top 50, yet to get past the third round of a major, yet to win a tour-level title.

Kenin will be taken more seriously now. By everyone. She is the youngest Australian Open champion since 2008, when Maria Sharapova won the hard-court tournament at age 20.

Kenin, who eliminated No. 1 Ash Barty in the semifinals, is expected to rise to No. 7 in

Monday's WTA rankings, the youngest American to make her debut in the top 10 since Serena Williams in 1999.

"Those people that didn't believe in her, they had very valid reasons not to, because she's always been the smallest one," Alex Kenin said the day before the final. "But I guess, thank God, I saw something that they didn't. Because I know her better. I feel pretty happy. I guess I was right."

In the men's final on Sunday, defending champion Novak Djokovic will face Dominic Thiem, a 26-year-old Austrian who was the runner-up to Rafael Nadal at the French Open the past two years. Djokovic seeks a record-extending

eighth title at Melbourne Park and 17th major trophy overall; Thiem is trying to become the first man born in the 1990s to win a Grand Slam title.

Kenin was born in 1998 in Moscow to Russian parents; they had moved to New York in the 1980s, but returned to be with family for the birth of their daughter. A few months later, they went back to the U.S. for good; Kenin grew up in Florida and still makes her home there.

Muguruza came into the day with a far more formidable record. She has been ranked No. 1 and won the French Open in 2016 and Wimbledon in 2017--the only woman to beat each Williams sister in a Grand Slam final.

But she tumbled out of the top 30 last season because of so-so results. She was trying to become only the third unseeded champion at the Australian Open in the professional era, which began in 1968.

Muguruza put on her game face from the moment she walked through the tunnel leading to the court. She didn't even spare a smile for pre-match photos up at the net with a grinning Kenin.

And when she made her first move in front, breaking to go up 2-1 after 15 minutes, Muguruza just tucked her racket under her left arm like an old-school commuter with a folded newspaper on the way to catch a subway train.

Kenin makes her mood obvious at all times.

After lost points, she bounced her racket or kicked it, rolled her eyes, muttered to herself. After winning points, she would pump a fist and scream "Come on!"--or, when she went up 5-2 in the second set, Kenin grabbed a tennis ball and slammed it off the blue court. Did that again later, too, as the end neared.

While Muguruza generally stuck to her preferred tactic of hit-'em-hard, harder, hardest--not a ton of nuance--and moving forward when an opening demanded it, Kenin put more shape and spin on balls, and turned to her favorite element, drop shots, when possible.

Muguruza took the last two games of the opening set to

move in front.

"I was obviously devastated," Kenin would say later.

But that is where the match's direction switched completely.

Kenin's play elevated, yes, but Muguruza's dropped. Her serve percentage and speed dipped. Her footwork was problematic.

Kenin broke to go up 3-1 and again to force a third set.

That's when Kenin stood her ground at that key juncture at 2-all in the third, holding there and then breaking immediately.

"A very important moment," Muguruza called it.

Well, there's an understatement.

Soon enough, Kenin was kissing the trophy, just as her father had kissed her on the cheek right before the walk from the hallway outside the locker room to the court.

When Kenin entered the interview room for her post-match news conference, she was handed a glass of bubbly. She's barely old enough to drink legally back home, but yes, she is old enough.

Her mom stayed in Florida and awaited a phone call to find out about the match -- too nervous to watch in person or on TV.

When it was time for Kenin's on-court speech, Dad called her over for a bit of advice.

"He just told me a few things what to say," Kenin said. "I told him, 'I know what to say. I'm 21. I can do this.'"

What can't she do right now?

Thiem beats Zverev to reach 1st Aussie Open final

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Locked in an even-as-can-be Australian Open semifinal, Dominic Thiem looked up at his guest box, patted his belly and stuck out his tongue, as if to indicate he was feeling sick. He shook his head. He winced.

Whatever might have been going on, Thiem turned out to be just fine -- well enough to play, well enough to win.

The 26-year-old Austrian reached his third Grand Slam final overall and first at Melbourne Park by using his baseline bullying and big-

moment bravado to beat Alexander Zverev 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4) on Friday night.

"I was feeling nerves, I think. I was putting so much energy, so much effort in, so my stomach was not ready for that. I think it was rebelling a little bit," Thiem said, laughing about what happened. "But all good. I sometimes have it when I have tough matches."

The key to Thiem's victory over No. 7 Zverev was the same as the key to his previous win, over No. 1 Rafael Nadal in the quarterfinals:

coming through in the clutch. Thiem went a combined 5 for 5 in tiebreakers in those matches.

"I was going for it. Could have also missed them," he said about some of his shots Friday. "I was brave, but also lucky that I made these."

The No. 5-seeded Thiem's opponent in the title match Sunday will be No. 2 Novak Djokovic, the defending champion, who eliminated Roger Federer on Thursday.

Djokovic, 32, will be appearing in his record eighth Australian Open final and



Blue Haus, Vision RNV going opposite directions

By MARK RABAGO
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Blue Haus continued to be spotless in the masters division, while Pacific Islands Club Saipan remained winless in the open division as action in the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League resumed Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

League leader Blue Haus painted the town red against IT&E in the first game en route to an 89-74 victory, which raised their perfect record to 8-0. IT&E dropped to 4-3.

Led by bull-strong Junar Guiab, Blue Haus thoroughly dominated the first quarter as it doubled up IT&E, 26-13. The carnage carried over in the second quarter with Ehrol Peredo this time taking the controls from Guiab, as Blue Haus took a 45-28 spread at the halftime break.

Jawn Joyner and Sonny Lerio tried their best to revive IT&E's hopes of an upset in the third quarter, firing 8 and 6 points, respectively, but Blue Haus continued to roll, this time behind Tony Diaz's hot shooting and they continued to lead, 70-52, heading into the playoff period.

Blue Haus emptied their bench in the fourth quarter and their shock troopers proved up to the task of maintaining their lead, as they cruised to the 15-point win.

Peredo led Blue Haus with 15 points and was ably supported by best player of the game Guiab's 15, which were the same points scattered by Diaz. Joyner paced IT&E with his 17, followed by the 15 points apiece by Lerio and Dexter Tenorio, who played despite an injury.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vision RNV's Ivan Devero was named best player of the game in their open division game in the UFO caging against Pacific Islands Club Saipan last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the second game, Pacific Islands Club Saipan is still in search for its first win in the open division after losing to Vision RNV, 88-80.

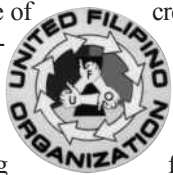
Its season of futility appeared to have a chance of ending after a competitive first half against Vision RNV. With Raymark Castro and James Abuy combining for 15 points, PIC kept pace with their opponents down by only 5 points, 22-27, after the first 10 minutes of action.

PIC outdid itself in the second, as some stingy defense and hot shooting allowed them to trim their deficit even further, as Vision RNV only led, 43-41, after two quarters of play.

That trend come crashing down at the start of the third, however, as Vision RNV asserted itself and thanks to 13 points from best player of the game Ivan Devero, they increased their spread to 68-58 going into the last 10 minutes of the game.

Devero paired with Ehrol Peredo in the fourth quarter as Vision RNV completely shut the door on PIC to gain its third win in seven games.

Devero led Vision RNV with 25 markers, while Ronald Rueda contributed 19—all in the first half. Abuy and Castro played brilliantly in the loss with 23 and 19 points, respectively.



In the other finals played at the tennis courts of Garapan hotel yesterday, Carol Lee was leading Robbie Schorr in their own finals match in the boys U18 singles before it was stopped due to rain.

The top seeded Lee raced to a 4-0 lead in the opening set by breaking Schorr twice. The second seeded Schorr fought back and broke Lee in

the fifth game to make it 1-4 before play was eventually suspended.

In the other final yesterday, June Yu was battling Wataru Kadokura in the boys U12 singles with the former winning a protracted first set 6-4. Yu was also leading the first game of the second set when the match was suspended on account of the weather.

"I didn't really want to go all out. I competed but didn't really went all out because I'm going to train later on today. I really wanted to focus more on the new lifters so they can perform to the best that they could. And I'm happy they did as there were personal bests across the board," he said.

The 27-year-old, who else serves as coach for the weightlifters, said weightlifting competitions like the one last Saturday really brings out the best in athletes.

"You could hit your per-

First Game

Blue Haus 89 – E. Peredo 21, T. Diaz 15, Guiab 15, E. Diaz 9, Esdrelon 7, Berline 6, R. Peredo 6, Culala 6, Buenabaja 2, Garcia 2.

IT&E 74 – Joyner 17, Lerio 15, Tenorio 15, G. Masga 14, D. Masga 5, Zapata 5.

Scoring by quarters: 26-13, 45-29, 70-52, 89-74.

Second Game

Vision RNV 88 – Devero 25, Rueda 19, Peredo 16, Esdrelon 12, Odicta 4, Poolina 4, Tagle 4, Taraya 2.

Pacific Islands Club 80 – Abuy 23, Castro 19, Norita 15, Ma 15, Dan 7.

Scoring by quarters: 27-22, 43-41, 68-58, 88-80.

The Saipan International School student council is organizing the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament. It is being held to fundraise for the school's many activities, including prom. SIS student and CNMI junior national player Malika Miyawaki is coordinating the entire tournament with the help of CNMI national tennis coach and sports hall of famer Jeff Race.

sonal bests in training but it doesn't really matter. It's in competition were it matters. If you hit your best score in competition it's where it matters," he said.

Saipan Tribune will publish the results of the 67-, 73-, and 81-kg weight class for men and 81-kg weight class for women in the following days.

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation organized the competition. For more information on the weightlifting organization, call its president John Davis at 789-9211.



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Blue Haus' Junar Guiab was named best player of the game in their masters division game in the UFO caging against IT&E last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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like he did in the playoffs."

Marianas High School teacher James Glenn has been a "huge" Chiefs fan since he was 5 years old and divines that Kansas City will be holding the Vince Lombardi Trophy at the end of Super Bowl LIV, 34-31.

"Ironically Joe Montana, a 49ers legend, was our QB at that time. To be honest, the team hasn't done much since I became a fan nearly 30 years ago. But now with Patrick Mahomes (who I consider the Michael Jordan of football) and company, it seems the sky is the limit to what this team could accomplish over the next 10-20 years.

Glenn also thinks this is only the beginning of the Chiefs and 49ers clashing in the Super Bowl for years to come.

"I feel like it's the Chiefs time, but simply hoping for a fairly officiated contest and a great game. GO CHIEFS!!!"

Physician assistant Keith Longuski is also rooting for the Chiefs, having lived in Kansas City for 10 years, during a time he could only describe as some of the worst and trying years as a fan.

"This appearance means so much to the diehard Chiefs fans who waited 50 years. I think it is going to be an offensive battle. Don't be surprised if the Chiefs score over 50. My take 42-31, Chiefs," he said, adding that Mahomes will prove to everyone he's the NFL new GOAT (greatest of all time).

For Navy Hill's Matt Triebel, being born and raised in downtown Kansas City automatically makes

him root for the Chiefs in this year's Super Bowl.

"As most know we have had our many highs and lows as a franchise through the years. But through it all—the Chiefs is the only NFL team I have ever associated with. Furthermore, I am a huge Andy Reid fan and he deserves this Super Bowl. Now is our time!"

As for the final score, Triebel feels it's also going to be a close game. "It's been an exciting and high-scoring post-season for KC, and I see that continuing through to the end of the big game. I call a Chiefs win at 41-35."

Denise Meyers, of Capital Hill, said anyone asking why she's a Chiefs fan is almost like asking why people on Saipan are called islanders.

"I grew up in Missouri about 4 hours away from Kansas City and have been lucky enough to be going to games for over 10 years now. I am an avid sports fan and in Missouri that means Blues hockey, Cardinals baseball, and CHIEFS FOOTBALL! There's something magical about being at Arrowhead Stadium; tailgating for hours before the game, going into the loudest stadium in the NFL, and cheering with 70,000 other football fans for a stop on 3rd and 2 or watching an unbelievable one-handed catch. I've been a fan for as long as I can remember, but this is the first time in my lifetime we have ever made it to the Super Bowl."

Meyers predicts a more comfortable 35-23 win by her hometown Chiefs. "To all the Niners fans: Good luck and may the best homie win, and by that I mean Mahomie," she said. *(With reports from Bea Cabrera)*

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two rounds held last Jan. 26.

After getting a bye in the first round, Kim dominated her second round pairing against Seiyul Hong, 4-1, 4-1. Chung also got a bye in the first round before dispatching Savita Sikkel in the next round in an identical score of 4-1, 4-1.

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less than six months and I'm happy to record my personal bests," he said.

Rodrigo beat a crowded race of four weightlifters with Aaron Pamintuan eventually finishing runner-up with his 176-kg total. Pamintuan topped at 78 kg in the snatch after a 75-kg lift in the opening round. He wasn't able to cleanly lift 81 kg in the third round. In the clean and jerk, the Marianas High School

alumnus topped at 95 kg. An attempt at 102 kg ended up with Pamintuan uttering "it's too heavy" before dropping the weight.

Other participants in the 89-kg weight division were Jocaz M. Diaz (145) and Deion T. Sabino (143 kg).

Angel San Nicolas, a bronze medalist in the 2018 Pacific Mini Games in Yap, competed alone in the 96-kg weight class. He had a total of 165 kg after lifting 65 kg in the snatch and 100 kg in the clean and jerk.



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I'm a New England Patriots fan and since Tom Terrific with his six Super Bowl rings and the rest of the Brady Bunch got knocked out on the wild card game, I've completely lost interest on the rest of the playoffs much less this year's NFL championship game.

However, *Saipan Tribune* still needs to come out with the obligatory Super Bowl story asking local pigskin fans who they are rooting for in Super Bowl LIV. So here goes... by the way, who's playing in today's Super Bowl again?

Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) said he's been a fan of the San Francisco 49ers forever, which in local parlance translates to "since ever since."

"I've been a fan since 'ever since' the days of [Joe] Montana and [Jerry] Rice. Even when they were having terrible seasons we still rooted for them. I'm hoping [coach Kyle] Shanahan, Jimmy G (former Patriots backup quarterback Jimmy Garapolo) and the boys bring another trophy to the Bay. It's been way too long," he said.

For former CNMI national swimmer Xenavee Pangelinan Torwal, Saipan might as well be Niners country.

"Niners all the way! I've been a Niner fan since I was about 6 years old," she said adding that her dad introduced



Keith Longuski.



Carl Hocog.

Is 670 Niners country or are the Chiefs kings of Saipan?



Sen. Jude Hofschneider wearing his Patriots cap with his better half wearing her 49ers cap.



Tony Satur with his daughter Immaculate Litulumar.



Denise Meyers, right.



James Glenn.



Xenavee Pangelinan Torwal with his husband Nathan Torwal.



Matt Triebel.

her to football.

"It was our bonding time, waking up early Monday morning to watch the games. He was patient and taught me the rules and how it was played. On Mondays when he couldn't miss work or I couldn't miss anymore school, we would set the VCR to record the games and watch it later. We didn't just watch the Niners games, we watched all the games that would show. I just love football because it's my time with my dad.

The mother of two was so enthralled with the 49ers at age 8 that she told her father she wanted to work in the Niners locker room and marry then 49ers quarterback Steve Young.

PHI Pharmacy general manager Joshua Wise said he was born and raised a Niners fan. But his deep feelings with the 49ers aside, he really believes the 49ers have all it takes to win Super Bowl LIV.

"The 49ers have incredible momentum with their solid run game. Jimmy G has a bunch of weapons at his disposal. And the biggest factor, the D with [DeForest] Buckner, [Nick] Bosa, Kwon [Alexcander], [Dre] Greenlaw, [Richard] Sherman...they'll get it done. KC has some offensive track stars but the D will win the game," he said.

Carl Hocog is so confident that Niners will beat the Kansas City Chiefs today that he even predicted the spread—27-23.

"Been rooting for the Niners since the late '80s. This year might be our year. The defense is pretty tight and the running game. Niners all day every day!" he said.

For Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Saipan), since the Patriots are not playing in the Super Bowl this year he's placing his bet on the 49ers.

"Strong defense outlasts good offense. Strong defense against a great offense? This may prove otherwise. However, 49ers will work to keep [Chiefs quarterback Patrick] Mahomes on the sidelines," he said.

Kansas City Chiefs fans would beg to disagree, however.

Tony Satur, who went to school in Missouri and lived there for 7 years, said his beloved Chiefs will edge San Francisco, 35-31.

"It's going to be a great Super Bowl, enjoy!" said Satur, adding that Susan, his beautiful wife of 38 years, is also from the Show-me State.

U.S. Marine Joel Subang said he's picking the Chiefs because he "just doesn't like California teams." On the score, he said Kansas City will prevail 24-17. "Patrick Mahomes can rise to the occasion

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James has a triple-double, Lakers throttle Kings, 129-113

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Kenin tops Muguruza at Australian Open for 1st major

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28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Barnhouse rules weightlifting tourney



MARK RABAGO

From left, David Barnhouse, Angel San Nicolas, and Rodrigo G. Ada in action during last Saturday's Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

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David was seemingly Goliath during last Saturday's Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

David Barnhouse treated the tournament as just an ordinary training day, but the U.S. Army Reserve still dominated the snatch and clean and jerk competitions with his feats of strength in the 190-kg weight division.

In the snatch, the 27-year-old had lifts of 100 kg and 110 kg before failing on his attempt at 115 kg. In the first two lifts, Barnhouse always had a serious expression on his face with eyes almost darting toward the back of the Multi-Purpose Center. That concentration didn't change even with the failed lift at 115 kg.

In the clean and jerk, Barnhouse started with 120 kg before progressing to 125 kg. He then wowed the crowd with a lift of 135 in his third and final round.

In all, Barnhouse totaled 245 kg in the snatch and clean and jerk competitions, thoroughly beating Tristan V. Muña and Limuel Bernal,

who had total lifts of 160 kg and 153 kg, respectively.

"I wasn't surprised [of the outcome]. It was just another day for training for me," said Barnhouse, who has been weightlifting the past nine years.

The score he totaled in the snatch and clean and jerk were not even his personal bests, as the heaviest he lifted in the snatch was 137 kg and 162 kg in the clean and jerk.

"I just took it relatively easy today, not my personal best," he said.

Muña topped out at 68 kg in the snatch after lifts of 60 kg and 65 kg. In the clean and jerk, he progressed from 80 kg to 85 kg before bowing out with 92 kg.

Bernal, for his part, successfully lifted 60 kg in the snatch after starting out with a 52 kg. He wasn't able to clear 65 kg in his third and final try. In the clean and jerk, Bernal reached his magic number of 93 kg af-

ter lifts of 80 kg and 85 kg.

In the 89-kg weight division, Rodrigo G. Ada was the cream of the crop with a total lift of 193 kg. It was the twice the charm for him in the snatch after it took him a sec-

ond attempt to clear 85 kg after initially lifting an 80. In the clean and jerk, he impressed with 99 kg in the first round before jumping to 104 kg in the second. Ada capped it all off with a personal best 108 kg

in the third round.

Prior to attempting the personal best, the 28-year-old Ada used an eye-black football players usually wear but instead of eye-black grease he used white lifting chalk to the

amusement of the crowd.

"I wasn't expecting it at all but I'm very happy with the win and the results. I trained

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Helen beats Serin in girls U14 finals

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Rivals inside the tennis court but best friends off it might as well sum up the relationship between Helen Kim and Serin Chung. And that dynamic was evident when the two 13-year-olds faced each other in the finals of the girls U14 singles in the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

In a match plagued by rain delay, Kim and Chung fought tooth and nail in the opening set before the former prevailed in a marathon set, 7-5. Chung tried her best to bring the same energy in the second set, but Kim seized the momentum of her first set win to ultimately defeat her best friend and win the girls U14 singles championship, 6-1.

"It's always interesting



Chung



Kim

when I play Serin cause she's also my best friend. It's always fun to play her and every time I play her it's always a different result. We're really playing to win and we don't hold back but outside the tennis court we're the best of friends," said

Kim after her victory.

For her part, Chung said she's happy with Kim's victory as well as her runner-up finish and looks forward to playing her best friend and fellow Saipan International School student in the future.

"It was challenging but I enjoyed it and I hope to play her again," she said.

Kim and Chung arranged a final showdown after going through similar paths in the first

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